

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
452,000

No 63,415

China's vow of vengeance on party rebels

Gunfire hits diplomats' compound in Peking

- China's defiant leaders threatened massive expulsions from the party of all who played leading roles in the uprising
- After shooting near the British Embassy the ambassador ordered out all but 38 diplomats and wives
- They also warned foreign countries not to interfere and condemned a series of sanctions imposed in the West
- Western intelligence estimated that as many as 7,000 had died and 10,000 had been injured in the turmoil

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking, and Andrew McEwen in London

China's hardliners, under attack throughout the world, last night defiantly threatened vengeance on rebellious party members and warned other countries against interference.

Massive unrest in other cities and further troop movements failed to produce any sign of a loss of confidence by the authorities.

The Communist Party said it would expel all members who played leading roles in what it called the counter-revolutionary chaos. The Foreign Ministry condemned the imposition of sanctions by the United States and Britain, and accused Washington of "fa-

granting making unwarranted charges". But Spain froze high-level contacts with Peking, while Japan, which has been reluctant to take sides, condemned attacks on unarmed people. Mr Karoly Grosz, the Hungarian party chief, became the first Soviet bloc leader to condemn the violence.

With anxiety in Hong Kong at a high level, Sir David

Wilson, the Governor, flew to London for talks today with Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. The Government is expected to make concessions on faster democracy and easier immigration.

After shots were fired near the British Embassy in Peking, Sir Alan Donald, the Ambassador, told the Foreign Ministry that the "extreme concern" of the British citizens, some of them armed, came close to the Embassy and a British flat in the diplomatic compound was hit by a stray bullet.

Sir Alan's wife, Janet, was among a handful of dependants who stayed behind after the Embassy evacuated all but 38 diplomats and wives. A huge exodus by other foreign residents was under way.

Large demonstrations were reported in at least a dozen Chinese cities, with outbreaks of shooting and violence from Chengdu and Xian, in the west of the country, and Dalian, in the north-east. The official media broadcast severe warnings to protesters, tacitly admitting that unrest has caused paralysis.

The main north-south railway route was reported to be cut at Wuhan, in central

China, by thousands of people sitting and lying on the tracks, while in the southern city of Canton, people were said to be massing on bridges to ward off the troops they feared would be sent in. Unrest in the provinces has escalated since news spread of the casualties inflicted when army units attacked in Tiananmen Square last Sunday.

After a relatively quiet night in the capital, troop movements began in mid-morning, when a convoy of 40 troop trucks, plus 2,000 soldiers on foot, preceded by three tanks and two armoured troop carriers, left Tiananmen Square to go east down the main Chang'an Avenue. The convoy was followed by a further two armoured troop carriers and trucks containing supplies.

Witnesses said that the troops, who wore red armbands, seemed elated, firing into the air, singing military songs and shouting slogans - which included "fire on the fascists", "crush the counter-revolutionaries", "down with corruption", and "long live the Communist Party".

The troops halted at the Jingsimen junction with the main route to the north, where several dozen tanks have been grouped in formation since Tuesday night. The junction passes on two sides around one of the largest diplomatic compounds in Peking, which houses several thousand foreigners.

As the troops halted, there was heavy gunfire, and the soldiers fanned out into the compound - the first time that the military had made any concerted incursion into a diplomatic area. Terrified residents, some of them trying to leave for the airport to take up seats on special flights, were delayed for two hours as the troops prevented anyone entering or leaving.

Continued on page 24, col 2

The winning smile of a Derby day favourite



Willie Carson, the winning jockey, being hugged by Sheilah Hern, wife of Dick Hern, trainer of Nashwan, which romped home by five lengths in the Derby.

Inflation above 8 per cent will keep rates high, warns Lawson

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

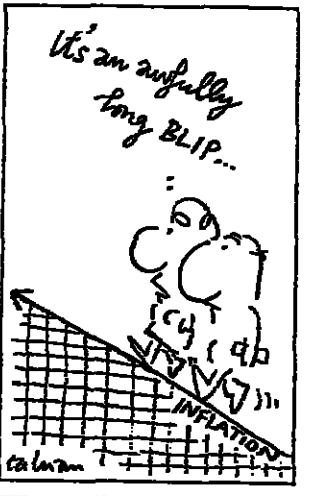
Mr Nigel Lawson attempted last night to reassure the financial markets by declaring that his high interest rates policy would endure for as long as was necessary to bring inflation down. He ruled out suggestions of an imminent change of policy.

However, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Commons speech in which he voiced confidence in the Government's ability to master inflation, admitted that inflation would go above the 8 per cent figure predicted in the Budget.

He said that peak could be reached "quite soon". However, a gradual fall should take place after the summer as the policy had its full impact.

Mr Lawson rejected alternative cures, including credit controls, and acted to squash City speculation that the Treasury might move to a policy of

"overfunding". The Chancellor was speaking during a Labour-initiated debate in which Mr John Smith, Labour's Treasury spokesman, made a strong attack on his handling



of the economy and attempted to exploit alleged differences in the Government over the means of tackling inflation.

Mr Smith said it was not clear who was the "real Chancellor". He said that time after time in the management of policy, Mr Lawson was "up-ended by the Prime Minister's own intervention".

Mr Lawson conceded that the Government had not yet "exorcised the spectre of inflation". However, he insisted that the rise in inflation was a worldwide phenomenon.

He said high interest rate medicine was working. "There is no substitute and never has been any substitute for the use of short-term interest rates... there is no alternative."

Mr Lawson appeared to have gone some way to calming Conservative fears about the apparent confusion in the

Government's economic policy, although MPs stressed that what counted would be the reaction of the City today.

The Chancellor also rejected a proposal for monetary base control put forward by some economists. "It is an illusion to suppose that overfunding can of itself tighten monetary conditions, since money drained out of the system by selling gilt-edged securities over and above the Government's strict funding requirements has to be put back into the system elsewhere."

He said the Government had considered using monetary base control, but had rejected the idea. It was in no sense an alternative to high interest rates. "Over the past year, interest rates have been raised substantially and the medicine is clearly working."

Inflation forecast, page 25

Triumph for Carson and Hern

By Ronald Faux

Nashwan thundered home as the most certain of certainties yesterday to win the Ever Ready Derby at Epsom by five lengths.

For both Willie Carson, the colt's jockey, and Major Dick Hern, its trainer, the win was a third Derby success.

Second was the 500-1 outsider Terimon, owned by the Dowager Lady Beaverbrook, ahead of Cacothes, the second favourite.

Hern, the Queen's trainer, clearly enjoyed the sense of triumph after the ill fortune that has dogged him in the four years since he was badly injured in a hunting accident. He was confined to a wheelchair and last year underwent major heart surgery.

It seemed he would lose the tenancy of the Queen's stables at West Isley near Newbury. His training licence was temporarily given up during his

Continued on page 24, col 2

INSIDE

DIRECTIONS

● Directions, a three-day careers and higher education exhibition sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, begins in London today at the National Hall, Olympia. A four-page guide begins on page 35.

● There is more help for young people in The Times Guide to Universities and Polytechnics, which continues with a report on stress and student health. And there is another chance to win a Z88 personal computer in the Erratum competition. Page 13

SATURDAY

● One's profession as an actress: Prunella Scales on her roles from the Queen to Sybil Fawcett and the perils of comedy typecasting.

PORTFOLIO BOND

● There were no winners of yesterday's £2,000 daily prize. Today's game: page 31

Rushdie hint

Hints that Iran would not kill Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, were given yesterday by Dr Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute in London. Page 7

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West puts Peking death toll at 7,000

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

As many as 7,000 people may have died in the massacre in Peking, with 10,000 injured, according to the latest Western intelligence assessment. Among the dead are a thousand soldiers, many of them suffering terrible burns when students set fire to their tanks.

During the early confusion, there was strong evidence that soldiers were shooting each other by mistake. The authorities were also "cremating bodies quietly" so that it was difficult to count the dead.

Western intelligence sources yesterday clarified some of the confusing reports coming from China in the past few days which have given the impression that the present divisions in the People's Liberation Army have centred on

the 27th Group Army, said to have been responsible for the massacre, and the 38th Army, reported to have refused to attack students.

The sources said that the picture was much more complex. The political leadership, unsure of the loyalties of the seven regional military commands, ordered elements from many of them to Peking to help combat the "counter-revolutionary" students.

The sources said: "The 27th Group Army was responsible for some of the worst incidents in Peking, but many other elements have been involved, even including the 38th Army. The intention of the political leadership was to make sure that no one could

Continued on page 24, col 5

New fear for Aids victims

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists studying the Aids epidemic think that everyone infected with the virus that causes the illness will eventually develop the disease.

Results of research supporting this gloomy outlook were presented yesterday to the Fifth International Conference on Aids, in Montreal, at which public health experts have clashed over the best approach to halt the relentless spread of the disease.

The World Health Organization estimates that there are 500,000 cases of Aids. Between five million and 10 million people are believed to be infected with HIV, the human immuno-deficiency virus that causes the disease. The number is expected to rise to 20 million over the next decade.

Fears about virus, page 3

Dockers may defy court strike ban

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The Court of Appeal yesterday granted port employers an injunction banning the Transport and General Workers' Union from calling a national dock strike, overturning the decision of the High Court which had ruled in favour of the union.

The decision surprised both sides in the dispute. It was based on the "grave effects on the public interest" of a national stoppage and accepted that the employers had a case in arguing that the National Dock Labour Scheme concealed an effective no-strike clause which prevents the 9,400 registered dock workers from taking industrial action.

The TGWU has been granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords, which may hear the union's case next week. Union officials are in an extremely difficult position as their overwhelming mandate

for strike action runs out on June 15.

The 1984 Trade Union Act stipulates that any strike must be called 28 days after the result of the ballot is declared.

There is now a real possibility that unofficial action will be called by frustrated shop stewards who believe the Government has made it impossible for any union to take action legally.

Mr Colin Coughlin, a shop steward in Tilbury, said that his members would take action to defend their jobs. "I would not be surprised if unofficial action started the next morning."

Continued on page 24, col 1

Highest bidder will win race for TV franchises

By Richard Evans, Media Editor



The Prime Minister and the Treasury have won their battle to allow independent television franchises to go to the highest bidder in the 1990s.

When existing contracts for Britain's 16 commercial regions come up for renewal in three years' time, applicants who pass a "quality" test will bid - with the largest tender winning the spoils.

The decision about the allocation of valuable independent television contracts, taken at a Cabinet committee chaired by Mrs Thatcher this week, follows a fierce battle inside Government and bitter criticism from the television industry.

The tendering system is the most controversial measure to be included in the Government's broadcasting Bill this

November - and is likely to be strongly contested.

Critics of the highest-bid-wins proposal have claimed the application of free market economics to television contracts will lead to an inevitable decline in the standard of programmes.

It is more likely existing independent television companies will lose out in the bidding and be replaced by several new operators.

Mr George Russell, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, threatened in March that he would resign if the Government persisted with the highest bid idea.

He wanted the option to turn down the highest bid if it was thought to be unsound - and gained Home Office backing for his plan. Mr Russell's plan

has been rejected but the Cabinet committee, in an attempt to ward off criticism, decided to toughen the quality test which contract applicants will have to pass before they are allowed to submit a bid.

It is understood that franchise applicants seeking to pass the quality hurdle, will have to supply much more detailed information than originally envisaged in the broadcasting White Paper. Programming, and how quality schedules will be sustained, will be paramount.

Home Office ministers are understood to be relatively happy with they regard as an "agreeable compromise" between the need to preserve quality programming and gain the highest return to the

Continued on page 24, col 7

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1990

Aids study supports fears of deadly nature of virus

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Fears that all people infected with the Aids virus will eventually develop the disease are strengthened by the latest results from the longest study in monitoring the virus.

The conclusions presented yesterday by Dr. George Rutherford, of the San Francisco department of public health, to the Fifth International Conference on Aids, meeting in Montreal, Canada, were based on data showing that 10 years after their initial infection with the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, 54 per cent of a group of nearly 6,700 homosexual and bisexual men had developed full-blown Aids.

Although Aids was not recognized as a disease until 1981, the San Francisco health department started collecting blood samples from a large group of local men in 1978 as part of a study of hepatitis.

The blood samples are the earliest available evidence of the presence of HIV in the

United States, where there are nearly 95,000 cases of the disease and an estimated 1.5 million carriers of HIV.

The study has shown that the risk of an infected individual developing the full-blown disease is "quite low" in the first years after infection, but increases with time. One year after infection, the risk of disease was zero. After four years it was 10 per cent, and after nine it was 43 per cent.

Dr Rutherford said that treatment with AZT, the only drug available to reduce the spread of the virus after infection, and other therapies "may significantly alter" the onset of the disease. Health experts at the conference, however, are divided about the best way to halt its apparently relentless spread.

Several million people are infected with HIV worldwide. Dr Rutherford said a few men in the study who were infected at least eight years ago have remained totally free of

symptoms. Scientists would continue to monitor the group to see whether any escaped.

Some hopeful news came from teams in London, Amsterdam and Tacoma, Washington State, who reported on the success of needle and syringe exchange programmes for intravenous drug users, now regarded as being most at risk of contracting and spreading the infection through needle sharing.

An evaluation of the busiest exchange scheme in London, given by Dr Graham Hart, of Middlesex Hospital, showed that there were an average of 257 participants who made about 762 visits each month.

The programme dispensed 8,950 needles and syringes, of which 6,918, were exchanged. A decline was also noted in the percentage of addicts who borrowed equipment and those who lent it.

On entry, seven of 121 addicts, or 6 per cent, were HIV-infected and they re-

ported sharing equipment with twice as many intravenous drug users as those who were not HIV-infected.

Nevertheless, the experts have clashed this week over possible measures to stop the epidemic. A serious disagreement flared after Dr Stephen Joseph, the health commissioner for the city of New York, proposed an end to anonymous testing for HIV. He recommended that all people found to be infected with the virus should be confidentially reported to the health authorities.

A team of health workers would then trace any other people with whom the carriers had had sexual relations or shared needles.

Dr James Mason, the US assistant secretary of health, however, came out against mandatory efforts to trace the partners of Aids-infected people. He was strongly opposed to removing the option of anonymous Aids testing.

Pioneer swimmer's medals sold

By David Cross

Medals awarded to Captain Matthew Webb, who covered himself with porpoise oil in August 1875 to become the first swimmer to cross the Channel, were sold in London yesterday by the wife of the last direct descendant of the adventurer and stuntman.

The collection, bought for £12,650 by a private collector who had revered the swimmer since reading a comic about his exploits when he was a boy, included three medals for bravery.

One of them was the first Stanhope Medal given by the Royal Humane Society in 1874 in recognition of Captain Webb's attempt to save a man who had fallen from the Cunard liner SS Russia on a crossing to New York.

The vendor, who wished to remain anonymous, had hoped that the medals would be bought by a British museum for public display. Her late husband was a direct descendant of Captain Webb but there was no close member of the family to whom they could be passed.

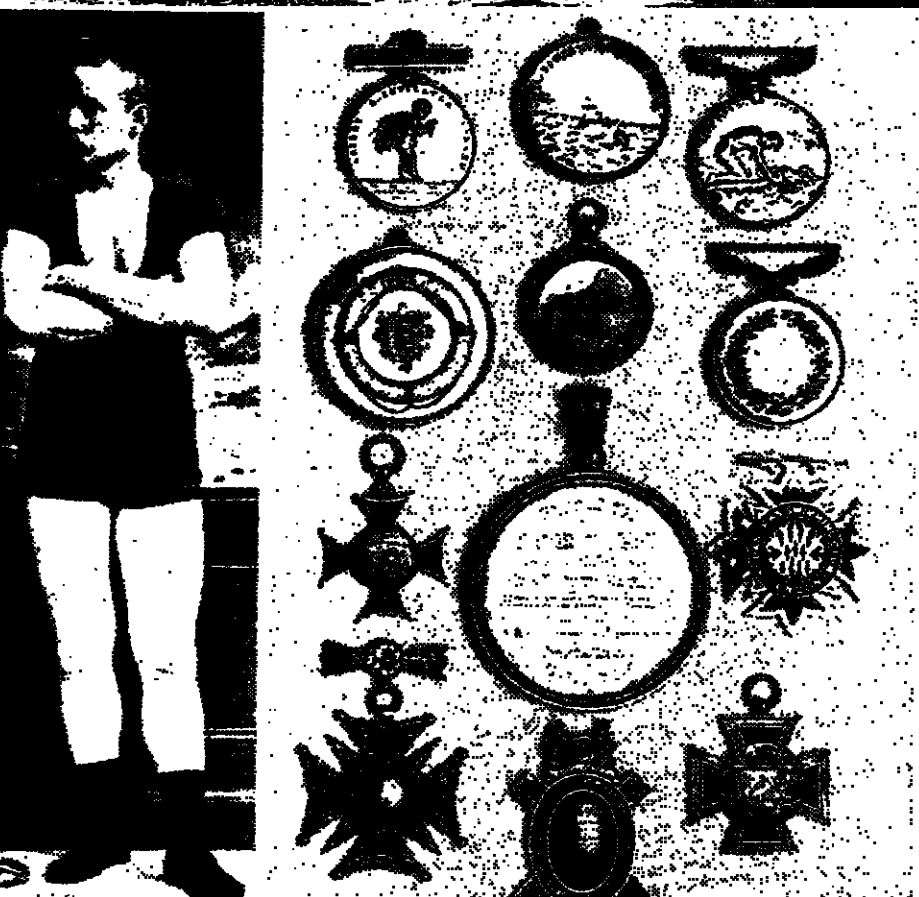
The sale by Glendinning's, the coin and medal branch of Phillips, the auctioneers, was watched by three other descendants related by marriage to the Victorian swimmer. The bidding, orchestrated by Mr Christopher Webb, the auctioneer and no relation, was lively, and the upper estimate of £25,000 was quickly surpassed.

Captain Webb, who began his crossing from Admiralty Pier in Dover on August 24, took almost 22 hours on his 39-mile swim to Calais.

He was the first of 360 people to swim the Channel out of a total of 3,900 who have tried.

This summer, another 50 or 60 attempts are expected to be made, including a second try by the Canadian swimmer Miss Barbara McNeill, aged 31, of Prince Edward Island.

She was two miles from the French coast last August when she heard that Senora Renata Agondi, the Brazilian champion, had collapsed of exhaustion. She abandoned her swim so that her boat could help with the unsuccessful rescue operation.



Top: A contemporary engraving of Captain Matthew Webb swimming the Channel. Left: Webb posing before his 1875 triumph; and the medal collection, sold yesterday for £12,650.

Artist's test case settled out of court

A High Court test case concerning a contract between Stephen Conroy, the young Scottish artist, and Conservation Management, the London dealers, has been resolved in a secret out of court settlement.

The resolution, which comes a year before the case was due to be heard, ends a *cause célèbre* that has been exercising the contemporary art world, which feared that, in the current fine art boom,

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

end the contract last year he objected to a clause that he said prevented him from earning a living.

The settlement ends a year-long court order preventing the artist from selling or exhibiting a number of paintings in his studio.

The only complete first edition of Audubon's "Birds of America" fetched a record for this prestigious hand-coloured book at Sotheby's New York, on Tuesday, at \$3.96

million (£2.5 million). It had been owned by an early subscriber, who acquired all 87 parts at two guineas each between 1827 and 1838. The previous record, two years ago, was \$1.9 million.

The largest gold nugget ever offered for auction, weighing more than 22 lb, also became the most expensive when "The Golden Aussie" sold to a private collector for \$308,000 (£196,176) at Sotheby's in New York.

Police raid stolen car racketeers

By Stewart Taitler
Crime Reporter

Two hundred and fifty Thames Valley police yesterday carried out a series of dawn raids to crack a stolen car racket worth more than £500,000 and involving 60 cars.

Twenty-four people were held during searches of 25 premises in the Cowley area of Oxford. Detectives are investigating a racket where cars are stolen and "ringed" by creating new identities for them with new serial numbers.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said entry had to be forced at a number of addresses but there had been no violence. "What we're looking at is car ringing. After we have interviewed those arrested we may get on to distribution networks," he said.

"The cars we're dealing with are Ford Escorts and things of that sort, but it was a well-organized operation."

The officer said that some drugs were also found during the raids.

At least sixty cars are thought to have been stolen, many of them Ford Escorts, in a wide area in Oxfordshire. Escorts, especially the high performance varieties, have been a target for car thieves across the country.

Mother's three-year ordeal

Judge lets killer walk free

A mother who stabbed to death her daughter's boy friend after he turned her daughter into a drug addict was yesterday freed by a judge at the Central Criminal Court.

Julie Flores, aged 48, had endured a three-year nightmare as she saw her daughter become dependent on heroin and cocaine, through her association with Mr Dominic Sparkes, who was himself addicted, the court was told. She also became involved in crime, which ended with her going to prison.

Flores's daughter, Renata, was regularly beaten by Mr Sparkes, by whom she became pregnant at 15, and developed into an emotional and physical wreck.

Her weight dropped from nine stones to six and she was unable to care for her three-year-old child.

Mr Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said on September 8 last year the mother of eight waited for Mr Sparkes alone in her home in Reddish St, Peckham, south-east London. She armed herself with a 7lb weight from an antique clock and a long bladed butter knife.

She attacked Mr Sparkes, who was 6 ft 2 in tall, as he walked up the stairs, smashing his skull with the weight and stabbing him 13 times. She told police: "I wanted

to kill and injure him so he would not touch my babies any more."

Mr Bevan said: "Sparkes represented the downfall and growing destruction of her daughter and family so she decided to kill him. In her mind she felt Renata was under the spell of this man and there was no way she could break that spell."

Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, for the defence, said: "She killed him to protect her family. No one disputes that. She was terrified of Sparkes."

● He represented the downfall of her family so she decided to kill him. ●

because he threatened to kill her, Renata and the baby Roxanne.

"She believed it was only a matter of time before he carried out the threat," Miss Grindrod said.

"She suffered nightmares, fears and fantasies of harm coming to her family. Most people would agree she has suffered enough and had come to the end of her tether."

"All her energies and end enthusiasms were directed through her family. She was worried about her children." Three psychiatrists told the

judge how Flores was suffering from a form of "shell shock" caused by the years of stress she had endured due to Sparkes' behaviour.

Flores had denied murdering Mr Sparkes, unemployed, of the Aylesbury Estate, Elephant and Castle, south London, but just after the trial started changed her plea to guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Mr Justice Turner sentenced Flores to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years. He told the mother that no person had the right to take the law into their own hands and kill, but he added: "I have no doubt that for a period of at least 18 months you were justifiably concerned that the actions and attentions of Dominic Sparkes towards your daughter and granddaughter presented a considerable threat to their individual lives and well-being."

The mother had cared for a total of 11 children during her life.

"Most of your energy in adult life has been devoted to the care of others. Most particularly your own children," the judge said.

After the verdict, Flores broke down and sobbed. She was helped from the court by her solicitor.

School courses

Review bars Scottish exams

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Schools in England and Wales will no longer be able to enter their pupils for Scottish examinations although they are valid qualifications for university entrance throughout the United Kingdom.

The Scottish examinations, O level, standard and higher, have been removed from the approved list issued by the Secondary Examination and Assessment Council, set up by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, to overhaul the system.

Mr Philip Halsey, the council's chairman and chief executive, said the decision, which applies from this September, will affect very few schools

and that there were many alternative courses available. He said his list approved 14,000 qualifications and about 31,000 syllabuses.

However, an official of the Scottish Office said it was likely to cause concern in Scotland, where English examinations continue to be acceptable.

The examinations are used by the 1,200-pupil London Oratory School in south-west London, the Roman Catholic school that is opting out of local authority control in September.

About 200 candidates sit at least one, and possibly two or three Scottish examinations in modern languages and statis-

tics. Some boys in the fourth year have already studied the Scottish courses for a year but will now have to switch to English papers for the examinations in June.

● Tyneside City Technology College may launch a recruitment drive targeted at inner-city pupils because it has been allocated a site on the edge of the countryside — a long way from population centres. Mr George McHugh, the principal, said he would knock on doors if necessary.

● Stricter assessment of the achievement of pupils will have to be matched by tougher monitoring of the performance of their teachers, Mr Baker said yesterday.

perhaps unjustly not made a lasting impression on history apart from the French Revolution, yet an exhibition from the British School of Knitting will show that there is more to the craft than adding a red stitch at each decupation of an *envers de peuple*.

In addition, 18 representatives of careers advisory bodies, admissions offices and industry will give seminars.

Directions special report, pages 35-38

Fair to focus on job opportunities

At least 30,000 students are expected to visit Olympia in west London over the next three days as the largest careers and higher education fair in Britain opens at the exhibition centre today.

At a time when employers are already having trouble finding skilled staff and the number of school-leavers begins to fall by one third over the next four years, prospects for 18-year-olds have never looked so good. Advances in

technology and industrial techniques have, however, reduced the need for unskilled labour, putting students under greater pressure to leave school or college with a clutch of diverse qualifications.

The careers and higher education fair, Directions, sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, will host more than 300 colleges and businesses anxious to recruit the best of British youth.

Knitting, for example, has

Soviet Dream jets into Paris

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, Paris

A huge six-engined transport jet known as Mriya, the Dream, swept into Le Bourget Airport near Paris yesterday carrying the Soviet space shuttle on its back and with it the hopes of the Russian aerospace industry for a breakthrough into Western markets.

The Antonov An-225, easily the biggest aircraft ever built, is 36 metres (118 feet) long, weighs an astonishing 600 tonnes and can carry a 250-tonne load of cargo.

The craft flew to Paris, where the air show opens today, direct from Kiev, where it had been involved in the movement of equipment

to help in the Urals train disaster.

Its designer, Anatoly Bulanenko, quickly launched a determined sales drive not only for the Dream but for the growing number of advanced-technology commercial and military aircraft now being produced by the Soviet Union.

"We shall be offering the Mriya for sale or lease to anyone who needs a large transport aircraft," said Mr Bulanenko.

With demand for new aircraft now far outstripping the ability of Western manufacturers to supply them, airlines are having to wait up to six

years for deliveries. The Russians are ready to take advantage of this problem.

● The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday warned airlines that it is ready to step in to prevent premium fares being charged for flights from Heathrow or Gatwick.

Fears are growing that major leading airlines, such as British Airways, will charge higher fares than are justified because they hold a dominant position at the airports.

Mr Clifford Paice, the CAA's new director for economic regulation, said in Paris that regulatory bodies must be ready to protect passengers.

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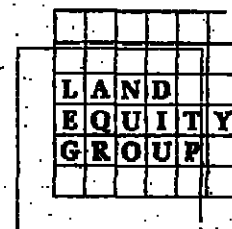
And if you still don't believe you're at the centre of the world's largest international financial community (with 1992 still to come) you can take a walk.

Fanning out in every direction are international trading banks. Over 500 of them in total.

It has even been said that when the Bank of England first came to the area in 1732, 1 Threadneedle St. may well have been their preferred address.

Had the site not been occupied at the time by a Sir Christopher Wren church built after the Great Fire of London.

Today, the freehold of the world's most prestigious banking address is being redeveloped by The Land Equity Group. Enquiries concerning its future should be made to Mr Peter Hunt of Wright Oliphant, Chartered Surveyors, London (01) 929 0854.



Campaign for
Thatcher
gains in E

Democrats con

Defence stance q

WHY
SINGLE-H
FOR

Campaign hots up for seats at Strasbourg as Labour predictions rebuffed

Thatcher confident of Tory gains in European election

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday insisted that Labour and not the Conservatives were the divided party on Europe. During her first direct intervention in the European election campaign, the Prime Minister rebuffed predictions of Labour advances by pledging that the Tories would not only keep all their seats in Strasbourg but would actually gain more.

As the campaign for the elections on June 15 gathers force, Mrs Thatcher could be heard praising the Belgian Blues and celebrating Halcyon Days.

That did not signal, however, either a sudden conversion to the joys of Brussels or a hankering for nostalgia. The Belgian Blues are a breed of cattle that Mrs Thatcher encountered on her tour of Harper Adams Agricultural College in Shropshire, while Halcyon Days are the owners of a Bilston enamel factory that she later visited in the usual electioneering scrum of photo opportunities.

Mrs Thatcher conceded one concern about the European contest. Of Labour's yield in opinion polls she declared: "What the polls may be

The Labour Party is to protest to the broadcasting authorities over alleged bias in favour of the Government during the European election campaign (Philip Webster writes).

The party said yesterday that both the BBC and ITN were failing to provide balance by giving opposition spokesmen similar opportunities to appear in programmes to these offered to ministers.

Mr Peter Mandelson, Labour's director of campaigns and communications, said that during the campaign it was open to ministers to make announcements and take initiatives. If a similar opportunity was not given to opposition figures, an unbalanced view was given.

Independent television and radio were in breach of the showing is that a bigger proportion of Labour people are going to turn out to vote. Obviously what I'm concerned about is that a bigger proportion of our people turn out to vote."

It was, she insisted, "an awareness campaign" and in that context, "one's worry is that not everyone realizes that the election is coming up."

There was no softening of the Thatcher line. It needed little invitation for her to drop



Broadcasting Act and the BBC of its charter, he said. Mr Stan Ouse, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said the Government had passed a policy of refusing to appear with Labour front-bench spokesmen.

Mr Mandelson said that broadcasters should observe an empty-chair policy if ministers refused to be interviewed alongside their shadows.

He said that on all issues there should be a "rough parity" in coverage between the Government and the Opposition. He is taking this up with the broadcasters.

back into her "wine la difference" groove, insisting it was entirely inappropriate for European institutions to meddle in such areas as drink-driving and emphasizing the importance of Britain retaining her national identity.

The Midlands tour provided the required shots for the nation's television. Whether a somewhat sanitized visit down on the farm and a few earnest questions in a factory has done anything to

raise the country's awareness of elections to the European Parliament remains doubtful.

A House of Lords committee has backed the Government's condemnation of European Commission plans to remove health controls at frontiers (Sheila Gunn writes).

Relaxing checks on animals and plants coming into Britain after 1992 will endanger public health, they say. They also criticize the EC's apparent intention to legislate by 1991 to end Britain's six-month quarantine requirements on dogs and cats. In their report published yesterday the peers conclude: "The commission appears to have sacrificed practical realities to the ideology of the single market."

It adds that the abolition of frontier checks at a stroke, would compromise health standards and create even more red tape.

The all-party committee did support the long-term objectives of the commission to create common standards of health inspection, monitoring and enforcement, health status zones and more penalties for unhealthy export.



Down on the farm: Mrs Margaret Thatcher meets Mr Neville Amos, a student at the Harper Adams Agricultural College.

Kurdish refugees crisis

Doctors support Kurd torture claims

By Peter Evans
and Emma Wilkins

Doctors yesterday supported claims by Kurdish refugees that they were tortured and beaten in Turkey.

As immigration authorities detained a further 13 Turks who had arrived in Britain in the past two days, doctors who examined 64 refugees said nearly all showed signs of physical violence.

The 13 detained were among a total of 136 Turks who arrived on Tuesday. Another 84 arrived yesterday, bringing to 1,871 the number seeking asylum since the beginning of May. The Home Office, which said it was likely that some of those who arrived on Wednesday would also have been detained because it was thought they might be Kurds, said it did not know how many were Kurds, but the British Refugee Council said yesterday: "We understand they all are."

The Home Office fears that many of the Kurds will work illegally and has detained about 300 while their applications for asylum are considered.

Twenty-five Kurds being held in prison have begun the second week of their hunger strike in protest against

detention.

The Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture yesterday backed the allegations of many Kurdish refugees who claim to have suffered torture and beatings in Turkey. Dr Tom Landau, an expert in assessing the physical and emotional signs of torture, said that 98 per cent of the Kurds examined had suffered torture or violence.

Many had been subjected to *falaka*, whereby the soles of the feet are beaten with a rod. Some of the beatings were so severe that bones in the feet were exposed. Others had been beaten with sandbags, while 17 men said they had been tortured with electricity. Two said they had been locked in a room with poisonous snakes.

The refugees examined were referred to the foundation out of a total of 104 Kurds interviewed so far by the Kurdish Workers' Association, based in Hackney, east London, where there is already a large Kurdish population. The association has found temporary housing for over a thousand refugees on the floors of local church halls.

Mr Hasan Kebene, aged 18, who said

he had given up a well-paid job working on the electrical circuits of cars to take his chance in a foreign country, said he had suffered discrimination and frequent beatings as a schoolboy.

"There were 40 children in my class, about 15 of us were Kurdish. If we put our hands up in class the teacher would ignore us. If we tried to speak at school in Kurdish the teacher would beat us. They tried to make us feel lower than the other children."

"One time I was out walking with two friends at dusk when the police picked me up for no reason. They took me to the police station where they beat me with truncheons. They took me to a farm and made me do very hard work for two days, digging and labouring. I was released without charge," he said.

The Home Office yesterday confirmed it was examining proposals that would require Turkish citizens to have a visa to enter the UK after June 23.

The British Refugee Council said that would make it more difficult for the Kurds fleeing Turkey. "We fear it could limit the chance of genuine refugees to flee for their lives," it said.

Constituency profile: Cornwall and Plymouth

Democrats confident of first victory

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Britain's centre parties have never won a Euro-election but the Social and Liberal Democrats have high hopes of doing so on June 15. They believe Mr Paul Tyler can wrest Cornwall and Plymouth from the Conservatives.

On paper the Democrats' hopes look realistic. Mr Christopher Beazley, the Conservative MEP, has a majority of 17,751, which is uncomfortably slim in a constituency of 540,000 voters. The Government is unpopular. Mr Tyler, aged 47, a former Liberal party chairman and briefly MP for Bodmin, needs a 5 per cent swing in a region where he is well known and the centre party vote is traditionally strong.

He already claims to be on course for a narrow win on the basis of an analysis of May's local election results by Dr Colin Rallings and Dr Michael Thrasher, electoral experts from Plymouth Polytechnic.

This showed that the Conservatives polled just 33.3 per cent of the total vote within the Euro-constituency, the Democrats 26.1 per cent,

Labour 19.6 per cent and the SDP achieved 7.7 per cent. As Dr David Owen's party has stood aside for the Democrats in the Euro-election, Mr Tyler claims he will have a 0.5 per cent lead over the Conservatives.

Mr Beazley dismisses this use of the analysis as "a traditional Liberal exercise in exaggerating their own support". It is, he says, an "enormous presumption" to suggest that Dr Owen can actually deliver all his 7.7 per cent support to Mr Tyler.

Another unknown factor is how the 13.3 per cent support won by Independent candidates in the local elections will divide.

A Tyler victory, depends, however, on him being seen as the only credible challenger to the Conservatives and squeezing the Labour vote. He has few problems on that score in Cornwall but many in Plymouth, which accounts for more than one third of the total electorate. Democrats are weak there, Labour is strong, and he can expect stiff resistance from Mrs Dorothy Kirk,

the teacher who is standing for Labour.

Mr Tyler, a public relations consultant, has enlisted as his agent Mrs Annette Penhaligon, widow of the much-loved Truro Liberal MP David, and he admits to exploiting fully the still-potent Penhaligon name.

He also admits to campaigning on domestic not European issues. He is urging electors to register a protest vote against such contentious government measures as the poll tax, National Health Service reforms, high interest rates and water privatization.

By contrast, Mr Beazley is concentrating almost exclusively on European issues. He is Britain's Tory spokesman on regional affairs in the European Parliament, and bases his appeal on the £100 million of EC grants to Plymouth and Cornwall during his five years as MEP.

Mr Beazley, aged 36, the son of South Bedfordshire's MEP Peter, makes light of his own party's disarray over Europe. He regrets the personal nature of Mr Edward Heath's attacks

on Mrs Thatcher but says they have highlighted just what she is trying to achieve in Europe.

He himself is on his party's pro-European wing. He favours sterling's rapid integration into the European exchange rate mechanism, and regrets Britain's failure to meet EC deadlines for raising drinking water standards.

Mr Beazley's campaign strategy is simply, and probably wisely, to maximize the turn-out of committed Tory supporters.

There are local issues, but not on a grand scale. Cornish fishermen, who used half their annual quota in the first three months of 1989, are angry that the Government has temporarily stopped them fishing for cod while the French continue to help themselves.

Other candidates are Mr Howard Hopbrough of the Cornish Green party and Mr Colin Lawry of the Cornish Nationalist party Mebyon Kernow.

1989 European Election: C Beazley (C) 21,427; P Tyler (SDP) 10,543; A Penhaligon (Lib) 10,543; D Owen (Lib) 7,751; M Thrasher (Lib) 7,751; M Kirk (Lab) 7,751; M Hopbrough (Green) 7,751; M Lawry (Nationalist) 7,751.

Glasgow Central and Vauxhall by-election campaigns

Defence stance questioned SLD move leads to libel writ

By Kerry Gill

Labour's candidate in the Glasgow Central by-election yesterday rejected claims by the Scottish National Party that he could not square his support for unilateral nuclear disarmament with his party's defence policy review.

Mr Mike Watson, however, said he was not and had never been a member of CND, but was committed to world nuclear disarmament.

The response drew a declaration from Mr Neil Kinnock, on the election trail yesterday, that he was still a CND member. But he denied there was a conflict of interest with the policy review under which a Labour government would strive for negotiated nuclear disarmament.

Anybody, he said, now had the opportunity to negotiate and "build down" and then abolish nuclear weapons. Pressed about unilateralism, he said there were two kinds

of people: those committed to securing nuclear disarmament and those who wanted to talk about it. People throughout the Labour movement faced the choice.

"All the evidence so far is that the huge majority are coming down for the rational, progressive and negotiated way to secure nuclear disarmament," Mr Kinnock said.

He said that Labour activists had strongly endorsed the policy position, particularly the policy designed to take full advantage of the new international conditions to gain disarmament by negotiation.

Mr Kinnock scorned the Scottish National Party saying that it would never have the slightest effect on the Tory government.

His attack centred on Mr Jim Sillars, SNP MP for Govan, who, he said, had been

a friend.

However, Mr Kinnock said, while Mr Sillars was a "not inconsiderable performer", his presence in Westminster had not made any difference and it would make no difference if any other nationalist MP was elected.

The nationalists' budget for Scotland, showing the advantages of independence in Europe, was a complete sham, he said.

Mr Sillars, however, said that Labour had little understanding of SNP strategy. "It is here in Scotland that we can mobilize the power of the Scottish people."

He added that canvass returns showed the nationalists were ahead compared with their position at the same stage of the Govan campaign.

"We use Westminster when it suits the purpose of the Scottish people and our cause," he said.

leads to libel writ

By Peter Mulligan
Parliamentary Staff

The first libel writ of the by-election campaign in Vauxhall was issued yesterday as the contest for the inner-London seat intensified. It enters its final week today.

Miss Kate Hoey, the Labour Party candidate, issued the writ in response to a Democrat leaflet that referred to Doreen Mason, a baby battered to death in 1987.

Labour said the leaflet implied that Miss Hoey's vote, as a Southwark councillor, would prevent the outcome of an inquiry into the baby's death being made public.

Mr Frank Dobson, the party's campaign co-ordinator, said that she had voted against an independent inquiry in accordance with the guidelines.

"I deplore the fact that the SLD have sunk so low that they bring the sad death of a child into a by-election."

Mr Mike Tuffrey, the Democrat candidate, said that while some Labour members of the council had voted for a full public inquiry, Miss Hoey had backed the party line.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Democrats' leader, said that it was "entirely legitimate" for the candidate's record on this "crucial issue" to be put before the electorate.

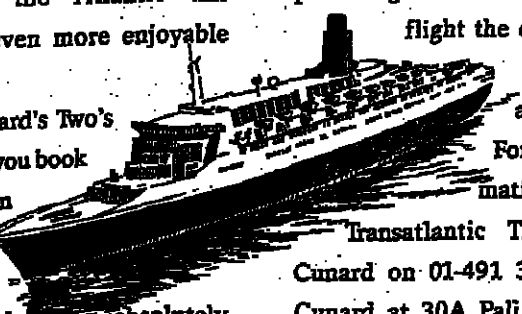
Yesterday also saw the announcement of the the Democrats' canvass returns, claiming that 20 per cent of the local electorate is not yet committed to any party and that 25 per cent of people were committed not to vote.

Of the remainder, 40 per cent intended to vote for Labour, 19 per cent for the SLD and 12 per cent for the Conservatives' Mr Mike Keehan.

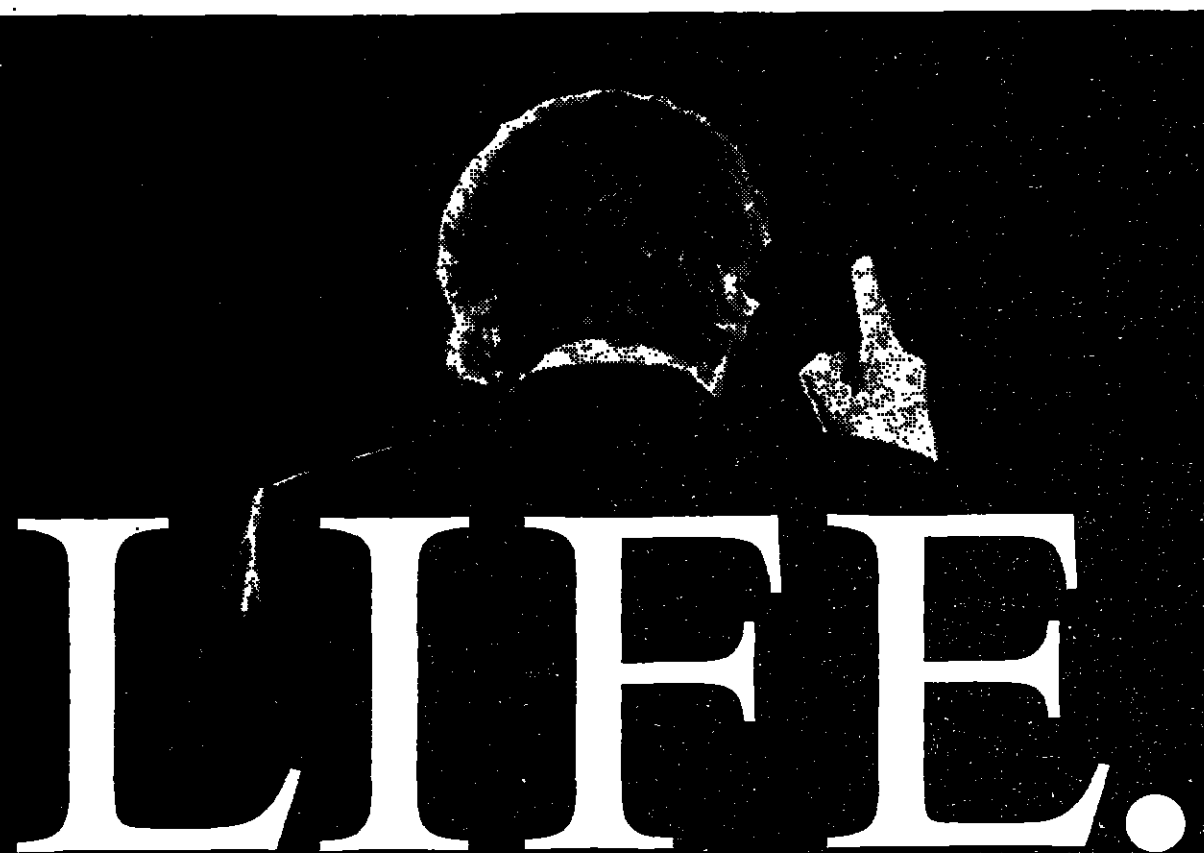
General election: S Kinnock (Lab) 21,427; P Tyler (SDP) 10,543; A Penhaligon (Lib) 10,543; D Owen (Lib) 7,751; M Thrasher (Lib) 7,751; M Kirk (Lab) 7,751; M Hopbrough (Green) 7,751; M Lawry (Nationalist) 7,751.

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Muslim price for deal on Rushdie book

From Nicholas Beeson
Tehran

Dr. Kaim Siddiqui, the director of the Muslim Institute in London who led the British delegation to Ayatollah Khomeini's funeral, said here yesterday that Salman Rushdie, the author of *The Satanic Verses*, should withdraw the book from sale and give the proceeds to a trust for the families of victims who died protesting against the novel in Pakistan and India earlier this year.

"If this happened, things could move forward very rapidly and you would see full diplomatic relations restored within three to six months," Dr. Siddiqui said after talks with senior Iranian leaders this week.

"Iran has no intention of killing Mr. Rushdie. It will not withdraw the death threat, but is prepared to let the matter drop," he added.

He predicted that Mr. Rushdie would be able to resume a normal life in Britain and said that the author would not be harmed by the British Muslim community.

There had been fears that, after the death of Iran's spiritual leader on Saturday, hardliners in the regime would step up their verbal attacks against Mr. Rushdie and his wife, which severed relations with Tehran as a result of the death threat.

It is not clear yet whether Iran's new leadership will soften its stance against the



Tehran grief: President Khamenei, left, Ayatollah Fasadideh, Khomeini's half-brother, Ahmad, his son, and Speaker Rafsanjani at a memorial ceremony.

West, but Dr. Siddiqui said it would take at least two years for relations between London and Tehran to be restored unless the Rushdie issue was settled.

Evidence is emerging, however, that contacts have already been established aimed at healing the rift. According to well placed sources in Tehran, British representatives sent notes to their Iranian counterparts at a recent inter-parliamentary meeting in Budapest to try to restore dialogue. One unconfirmed report in Tehran even suggests that a low-level contact between Britain and Iran was scheduled for Athens but was cancelled because of Khomeini's death.

In his will, Khomeini warned Iranians never to trust the superpowers, but economic pressure is expected to force the leadership into closer trade and financial ties with Western governments.

Mr. Muhammad Porsar, a caviar trader, said from his headquarters in Switzerland that this year's spring catch of sturgeon in the Caspian Sea was only half the size of last year's. He estimated that the total production would be no more than 80 tonnes from Iran and 45 tonnes from the Soviet Union. The figures are disputed by other experts.

A spokesman for W.G. White, one of the two principal importers in London, said: "The price of beluga has already trebled in recent years. Soon it will mean that we are being asked to put up £2,000 a kilo, but the prices will so restrict the market that few will want to take the risk."

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Polish political dilemma

Solidarity ready for compromise

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

After its dramatic victory in Sunday's Polish elections, Solidarity was engaged yesterday in efforts to ensure that the humiliated government National List somehow remains in Parliament.

None of the 35 members of the National List, it was confirmed yesterday, received the necessary 50 per cent of the votes. But as these 35 Communists represented the pro-reform element in the Communist Party, Solidarity is understandably loath to see them wiped off the political map entirely.

Yesterday it seemed more than likely that Solidarity would support most of the members of the list to regain their seats.

Mr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz, the Solidarity spokesman, was circumspect in his references to the National List's fate, adopting a noticeably softer line over their dilemma.

"The political system must respect the principles of society. We cannot ignore the role of the party, and we must analyse carefully what the will of the people really desires and on what it is based," he said.

His earlier view had been that it was entirely "up to the party" to sort out its problems. Solidarity sources said that,

while the union would remain faithful to the agreements of the round table, the Government would have to take into account its poor showing at the polls. It seems more than likely that, while supporting the unfortunate National List, Solidarity will insist on a high political price in return.

It will expect Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the unpopular Prime Minister, to go, although it will agree to the more agreeable General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Minister of the Interior, remaining.

Although Poland's constitutional rules allow for Cabinet ministers to be chosen from outside the Parliament, Solidarity is reluctant to tolerate the presence of certain key figures in the Government if they are not answerable to Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Government's dilemma was rumoured yesterday to have thrown into disarray the plans of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, to visit Britain tomorrow.

The general cancelled interviews with British correspondents yesterday.

A terse note from one of his aides gave no reason for this and no alternative date was suggested.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israeli raid kills Shia gunmen

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Israeli troops killed two gunmen on Tuesday in a hunt for guerrillas north of Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, an army spokesman said. "Two terrorists were killed... The troops were operating outside the Lebanon security zone near the village of Houla in an operation against terrorist deployments," the spokesman added. He said that there were no Israeli casualties. Military sources said they believed that the dead guerrillas were from the pro-Iranian, Shia Muslim, Hezbollah.

Nine Palestinian guerrillas and an Israeli soldier died in four border raids over eight days, the latest on Sunday, while Israeli warplanes raided Lebanese bases of Abu Nidal, the radical Palestinian guerrilla leader, and Hezbollah positions near the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley.

Mbeki sees Mandela

Johannesburg (Reuters) — South African President P. W. Botha's highest-ranking African National Congress leader at liberty in South Africa, has visited Nelson Mandela in his prison home at Paarl, near Cape Town, yesterday. Mr. Mbeki, aged 38, was accompanied by his wife, Thabane, to the imprisonment in 1964 for trying to overthrow South Africa's white Government. He was freed in November, 1987, in what many observers saw as preparation for Mandela's eventual release.

Marcos operation

Manila (Reuters) — Mr. Ferdinand Marcos, aged 71, the former Philippines President, who is listed in critical condition with heart, lung and kidney problems, had an operation on Tuesday to remove an abscess from his pancreas, hospital officials said. It was not a life-or-death matter and Mr. Marcos, who has been in hospital for more than four months and is attached to a respirator and a kidney blood-cleansing machine in an intensive care unit, was expected to have little difficulty recovering.

Mission extended

Washington (Reuters) — The Organization of American States has extended for more than a month the mandate of a diplomatic mission that has sought to have General Manuel Noriega, Panama's ruler, step down. A high-level OAS meeting approved the measure in response to a request from the diplomatic mission, which visited Panama last month and reported on Tuesday that it had signs that its effort was succeeding. The meeting's decision reaffirmed the mandate of the OAS mission to search for ways to assure a transfer of power in Panama, respecting the will of the people.

Ecologist film victory

Rio de Janeiro — An international tussle over the rights to produce a feature film about the Brazilian rubber tapper, labour leader and internationally acclaimed ecologist Chico Mendes, who was killed by gunmen in the Amazon last December, ended yesterday when the contract was awarded to a Brazilian company (Mac Margolis writes). J.N. Filmes, a small Rio studio owned by Senhor Joao Rodrigues, edged out highly priced bids by five other film-makers, including Robert Redford, David Putnam and Peter Grubers.

Actress is terrified by release of Scot

From James Bone, New York

The imminent release from jail of a Scottish fan has struck fear into the heart of an American actress.

Arthur Jackson, a 53-year-old with a history of psychiatric problems, became obsessed with Theresa Saldana after watching her films, which include *Raging Bull* and *I Want to Hold Your Hand*.

In 1982 he entered the US illegally to track her down, writing in his diary that he

believed he could win her by "sending her into eternity".

He attacked her outside her home and was sentenced to 12 years' jail. But throughout his term he has written threatening letters to the actress. Now he is due to be paroled for good behaviour on June 15, and will be deported.

Miss Saldana, aged 34 and five months pregnant, is living in fear that he will return. "It is just unbelievable that he is getting out," she said.

"I feel like I am in a nightmare. I really feel my rights are being overlooked. Why is it life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is being taken from me?"

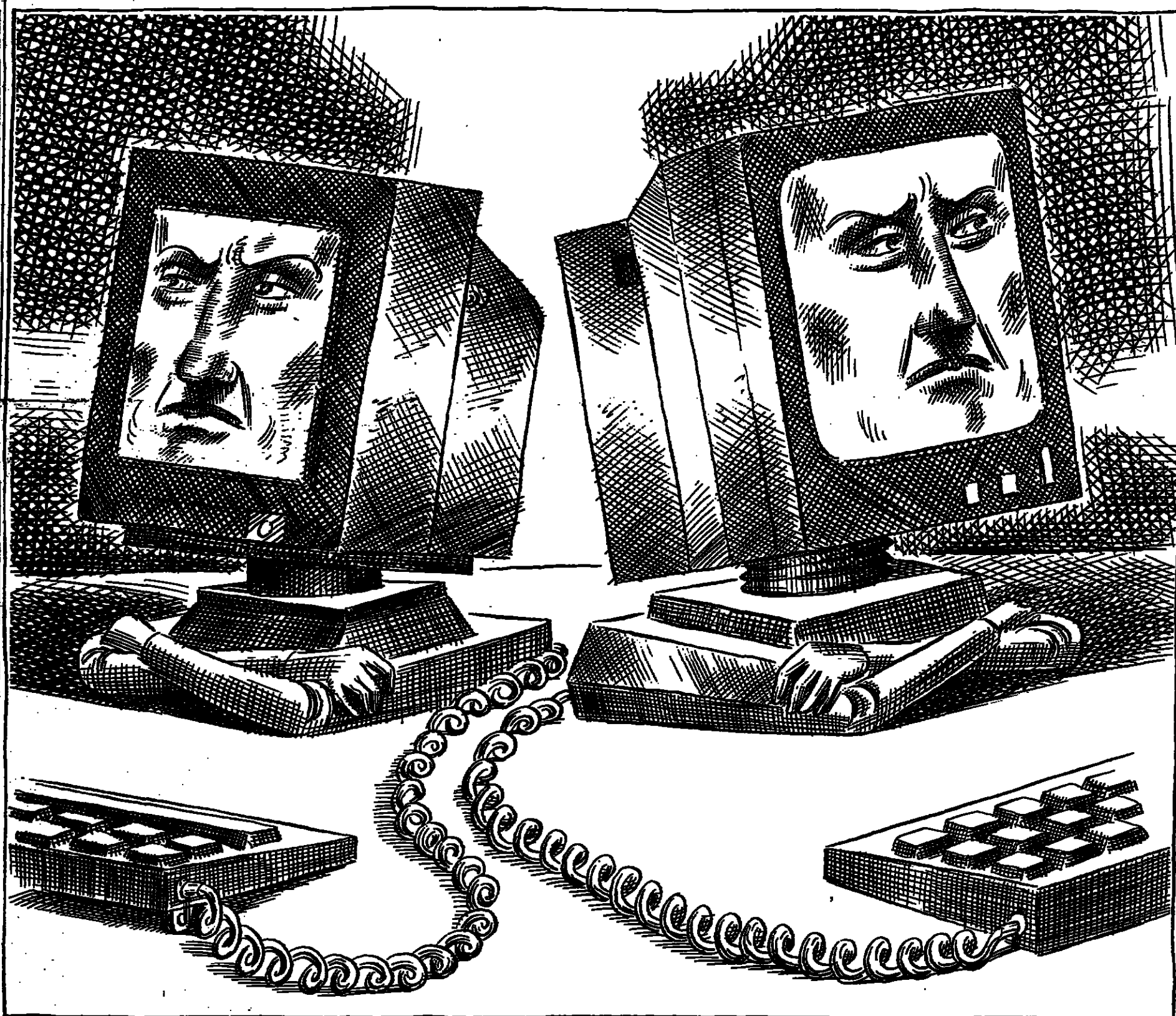
The actress, who told her own story in a 1984 film, has become an ardent advocate of victims' rights.

Jackson was deported from the US in 1961 for allegedly threatening to assassinate President Kennedy and was deported again in 1966.

US authorities admit that it will be difficult to prevent him from returning again illegally.



Jackson: Jailed for 12 years but now due for parole.



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Party threatens a harsh fate for rebel members

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking

The Chinese Communist Party said yesterday it would expect all members who played a leading role in what it called the "counter-revolutionary chaos".

In a statement to all 47 million party members, the Central Disciplinary Committee called for expulsion and severe punishment for those members who took part in disturbances.

Individuals who broke the law during the chaos — a reference to the pro-democracy unrest — will be dealt with by judicial authorities, said a statement on state television.

The Central Disciplinary Committee is headed by Mr Qiao Shi, a member of the Politburo standing committee, and includes Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the party General Secretary, who is now expected to be replaced by Mr Qiao.

A report on Peking radio yesterday morning suggested that Mr Qiao, aged 65, was the front-runner to head the party if the removal of Mr Zhao is confirmed. The disclosure of Mr Qiao's elevation came in the form of a telegram to the leadership from the Supreme People's Court expressing approval and support for the military action in Peking on Sunday morning. The tele-

gram was addressed to Mr Qiao and the standing committee of the party Politburo. The mention of Mr Qiao by name is the first time he has been placed higher in rank than the other members of the standing committee. Previously he was one of five committee members, of whom Mr Zhao was the most senior.

Yesterday also brought clarification that Mr Li is still

Taipei — Taiwan is to open telephone links to China for the first time in 40 years and expand mail links to help break the news blackout imposed by Peking, the Government announced yesterday (Reuters reports). Mr Shaw Ye-ming, the chief spokesman, said that within three days Taiwan citizens will be able to dial the Chinese mainland through switchboards in other countries.

In his post, he was reported by the official *People's Daily* to have attended a meeting on Tuesday concerning industrial production. The report may have been placed to dispel rumours of an assassination attempt against him.

Many Chinese believe that there is at present no viable party or government leadership in place.

Support for this view is

provided by the apparently unco-ordinated military movements around Peking. The continued absence of any clear statement about the killings of the weekend — other than the harsh collective party and government letter of June 5 — offers further evidence.

Named senior leaders could have been expected to take responsibility for events which are being presented as the first stage in a glorious victory. Yet none has come forward to claim his victory to the Chinese people. President Yang, Mr Li, and Mr Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader, have all been silent. Although Mr Qiao has received a telegram, he has had nothing to say on his own account.

The lack of leadership is nowhere more apparent than in Peking television programming. For the past day and a half it has transmitted time after time a long recording of the State Council spokesman, Mr Yuan Mu, explaining the events of Sunday morning and denying that anyone was killed on Tiananmen Square.

He did, however, admit that 5,000 troops and 2,000 civilians had been injured, a figure which leads some to believe that one group of troops attacked another before, after or during the assault on the

square. In a comment sure to alarm an already nervous population, Mr Yuan implied that China should pay more attention to "class struggle".

In the Maoist era, a call for class struggle usually heralded large-scale purges in the party and often mass arrests.

The concept of class struggle is now tainted in China because millions of people were either killed or badly hampered in their careers after being deemed members of a social class that had to be "struggled against" in the first three decades of communist rule. "For a long period of time," Mr Yuan said, "no one has paid attention to class struggle, or even to political struggle — as if there is no class struggle at all and the world is filled with love. But the fact is, there are bad elements."

In the television film, Mr Yuan is speaking to a meeting of officials, which is also addressed by Mr Xiang Gong, a military official who denied Western reports that the 38th Army of Peking had attacked the 27th Army from Shaanxi, which is believed to have carried out Sunday's attack.

This recording, which describes the situation in Peking as "very grim" and warns of the risk of further rebellion, appears to be the only authorized account of the tragedy now the talk of all China.

Speedy exodus of British envoys



Sir Alan Donald, the British Ambassador in Peking, saying goodbye to a member of his staff as a convoy of embassy vehicles with British diplomats was evacuated from the embassy for the airport yesterday. The number of diplomats in Peking was reduced to half the normal complement yesterday as the exodus of Britons from China gathered momentum with the arrival of another

Boeing 747 to speed up the evacuation (David Sargent writes). Leading British companies confirmed that most, if not all, expatriate staff in China would have left the country by the weekend, in accordance with the advice to the 500-strong British community from Sir Alan. Word was also received yesterday from two teenage British girls, last heard of 12 days earlier as they set off backpacking

across China from Canton, that they were safe and well in the west of the country. For the second day running, a 365-seat Boeing 747 was chartered by the embassy from British Airways to airlift Britons and Commonwealth citizens from Peking to Hong Kong. On board the flight were 32 embassy employees and wives plus 25 of their children.

MAN IN THE NEWS: QIAO SHI

Disciplinarian set to take helm

From Our Special Correspondent, Peking

In the roundabout way in which the resolution of power struggles is often made known in China, Mr Qiao Shi has emerged as the probable next leader of the Chinese Communist Party.

A message to the party leadership from the Supreme Court, expressing approval of the military action taken to suppress the "counter-revolutionary riot" — the official terminology for the military action of June 4 — was addressed to Mr Qiao and the standing committee of the party Politburo, thereby setting him above the other members.

Mr Qiao appears to replace Mr Zhao Ziyang, who has not been seen or mentioned in public since May 19. Mr Zhao is widely believed to have dissented from the decision of Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, to declare martial law in the capital.

Unconfirmed reports say that he has been under house

arrest since then. Mr Qiao, who is 65, has been a force to be reckoned with behind the scenes of the Chinese Communist Party since he became director of the General

Central Political Science and Law Commission. All these are key appointments which concern respectively the disciplining of party officials, appointments, and changes in the political and legal structure of the country.

He was promoted to the five-member standing committee of the Politburo at the 13th party congress in 1987. He has concurrently held senior government appointments, becoming a Vice-Premier in 1986.

Since being named head of the party leadership's special anti-corruption unit early in 1986, he has been regarded as a party disciplinarian, who is orthodox in ideological matters, but none the less in favour of continued economic reform.

His relative lack of success in rooting out internal party corruption — a complaint near the top of the list of grievances cited by Peking student protesters — could have benefited

or threatened his career. If his failure was thought to reflect lack of zeal in pursuing anti-corruption inquiries, then he might have suffered.

If, however, it was thought to reflect top-level obstruction, the anti-corruption calls might have strengthened his claim to power.

When he was appointed to the State Council as Vice-Premier three years ago he was described as having been nominated by the then Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang. He was subsequently described as one of Mr Zhao's aides in the State Council. He appears, however, to have stood aloof from close political alliances.

When Mr Qiao's name was first mooted as a possible successor to Mr Zhao it was because of his reputation as a party disciplinarian. It was also thought that he might prove an acceptable compromise between reformers, like Mr Zhao and more cautious leaders like Mr Li Peng.



Mr Qiao Shi: A force to be reckoned with behind the scenes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Department of the Central Committee in 1983. Later he served as head of the Organizational Work Department and as secretary of the

PROVINCIAL TURMOIL

'40 killed' in Shanghai train blockade

By Our Foreign Staff

Nearly 40 people died when an express train ploughed through a human barricade on the outskirts of Shanghai, according to a Hong Kong reporter who saw the incident.

Shanghai's official *Liberation Daily* reported yesterday that six people had died and six were injured, but the Hong Kong report, in the Chinese-language *Wen Wei Po*, claimed eight died immediately, with 30 being fatally injured.

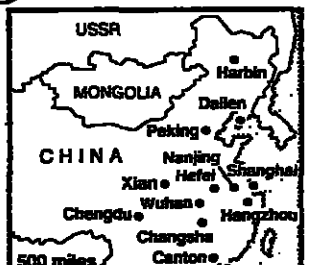
It said police and security officials arrived at the barricade just before the train was due, urging the students and citizens to leave, giving rise to speculation that train drivers were under orders not to stop for the human blockades that have crippled the rail system.

Immediately after the crash, an angry crowd set the train alight, destroying at least eight carriages. The passengers are believed to have escaped.

The official media in Peking broadcast severe warnings to provincial protesters yesterday, tacitly admitting that unrest has paralysed many cities.

A Scottish student in the ancient capital of Xian said huge crowds were yesterday holding anti-government demonstrations, and Xian radio claimed that crowds had "wrecked communications facilities, blocked buses, trolley buses, and cars, and forced passing vehicles to halt".

In Canton, security officials cleared a public square during the night and arrested 19 "evildoers from elsewhere",



throw petrol bombs", while in Changchun, the local radio quoted Mr Shang Zhenling, the Mayor, as saying: "If this situation continues, the city's economy will be paralysed."

An American student in the port city of Tianjin said the city was disrupted by demonstrations, and foreign students were trying to get away.

Large demonstrations also were reported in the southern city of Changsha, and Hunan provincial officials lashed out against people who "desire to see nationwide chaos".

In Wuhan traffic remained completely blocked and train services were disrupted by students lying on the tracks.

About a thousand people continued to block rail links out of Lanzhou, in northern China.

Thatcher flexible on migrants

By Robin Oakley, Andrew McEwen and Jonathan Brande

Mrs Thatcher yesterday ruled out any renegotiation of the 1984 agreement with China over the future of Hong Kong.

But in talks today with Sir David Wilson, the Governor, she and Sir Geoffrey Howe are expected to make some concessions on other issues.

Sir David is expected to seek a more generous response to those civil servants and others who wish to settle in Britain, a faster timetable for greater democracy and a much tougher attitude toward the huge influx of boat people.

Britain is expected to be more co-operative on the first two demands than on the third. It will want to give him enough to reassure Hong Kong's five million people, alarmed by events in China.

Mrs Thatcher indicated Britain's willingness yesterday to prevent a brain drain of Hong Kong business leaders by offering them eventual refuge in Britain if the Chinese takeover in 1997 proved unpalatable.

She repeated her promise to interpret immigration laws for Hong Kong holders of British passports "a little bit more generously than we have in the past". She went further by saying the Government was looking at "maximum flexibility under our passport laws".

The Government will not consider repudiating the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which set the terms under which sovereignty will revert to Peking in 1997. "We negotiated the agreement and

it is registered with the United Nations. We are going ahead with that agreement," she said.

Sir David will find the Government ready to consider changes in the timetable for democracy set out in the Hong Kong White Paper of February 1988. This took a cautious line, providing for only 10 of the 56 members of

Thousands of British and Chinese students demonstrated in London and Oxford yesterday. Wreaths from many student unions were laid at a makeshift "tomb for heroes" opposite the Chinese Embassy in central London, as about 1,500 students chanted pro-democracy slogans at the mission.

the Legislative Council to be directly elected in 1991.

The White Paper followed a consultative process in 1987, in which 130,000 Hong Kong residents took part. The British and Hong Kong governments said that there was no clear demand for full democracy at the time.

But Britain accepts that the mood is changing quickly. On Monday the Legislative Council voted unanimously for half its members to be directly elected by 1997, and all by

2003. It thinks this may be overtaken by demands for even faster democracy.

Whitehall sources said the Government would "take account" of opinion in Hong Kong. Its objective was to create an electoral system which would not be repudiated by the Chinese in 1997.

Mrs Thatcher hinted that the 1991 election might be brought forward. The Government "will have to look at speeding those up for the reassurance of the people of Hong Kong". But the British and Hong Kong governments will find it harder to agree on treatment of Vietnamese boat people.

Mr Geoffrey Barnes, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security, said yesterday that, because of the huge influx, the colony might have to consider ending its status as a port of first asylum. He implied that this could only be avoided if a breakthrough were achieved at next week's UN conference on refugees at Geneva.

Such a change, he said, would not mean that new arrivals would be pushed back out to sea, but that all new arrivals would most likely be considered as "unauthorized entrants" in Hong Kong with no chance to prove they were refugees rather than migrants.

Whitehall sources said that Britain would not agree to any change which meant preventing the boats from landing. But it will argue in favour of international pressure on Hanoi to accept compulsory

repatriation.

The British Government has not yet indicated what categories of people will benefit from its greater flexibility on applications to settle in Britain. But Mrs Thatcher emphasized the need to ensure that the colony remained prosperous.

"We hope that very influential people and people of particular skills will stay here if they know they have a kind of possibility of coming to Britain. It's a kind of insurance policy and they are much more likely to be able to persuade themselves to stay in Hong Kong," she said.

● HONG KONG: People here yesterday bore witness once again to their grief and anger over events in Peking with slow convoys of black-flagged vehicles trailing slogans denouncing the Peking Government, animated open-air meetings and a hasty construction of a Statue of Democracy to commemorate the one destroyed by tanks in Tiananmen Square (Philip Jacobson writes).

Mass demonstrations and a proposed "partial general strike" were called off yesterday after a small, but violent eruption of rioting in the Kowloon district late on Tuesday night.

An outbreak of panic buying has suddenly increased supermarkets' sales of items like eggs, rice, cooking oil and canned meats by about 50 per cent in the last couple of days. Leading article, page 17

Desperate rumours thrive in aftermath of military atrocities

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking

It is like the last minutes of tension before a thunderstorm, except that it goes on.

There are no buses in Peking and few cars, the life of a once bustling capital is in suspense. People scurry on foot or by bicycle with a sense of purpose born of the knowledge that their journey is essential. By dusk small clusters of people gather at intersections talking quietly, exchanging details of the day's rumours, half-heartedly reconstructing barricades.

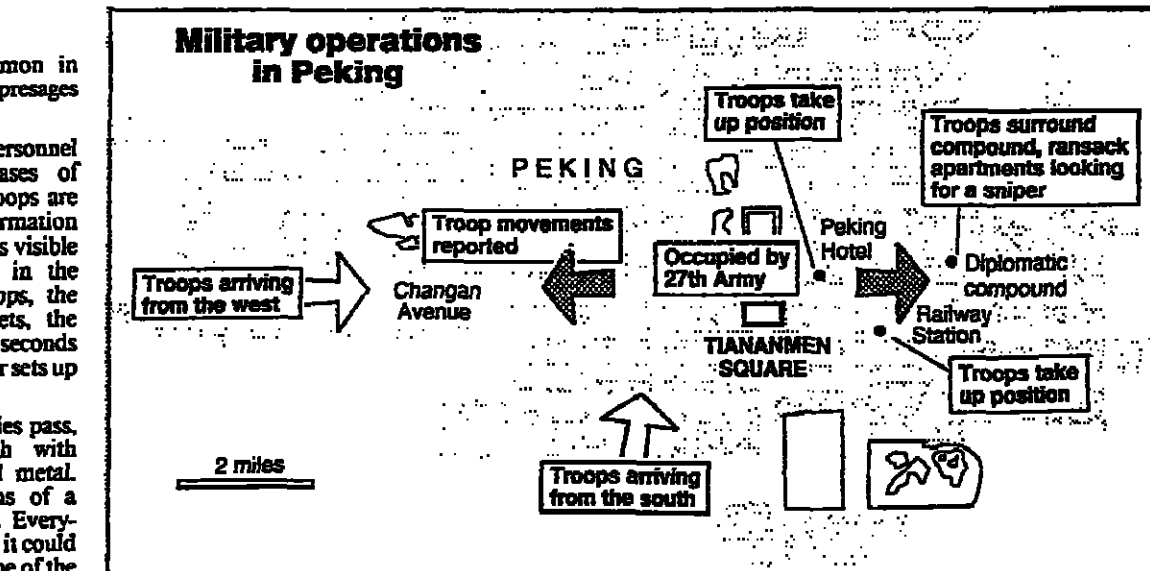
By darkness the people have vanished. The streets are empty and still. A formal curfew has never been announced, but everyone assumes it exists. Street lighting is rare and dim. The occasional helicopter can be heard faintly above the clouds. Any other sound is magnified. People's ears are sensitized to the slightest sound.

Even by daylight, the nervousness is palpable. A taxi sounds its horn causes everyone within earshot to jump, and then to run. After the random gunfire of the past few days, sudden noise —

even something as common in Peking as a car horn — presages fatal danger.

The tanks, armoured personnel carriers, burnt-out carcasses of vehicles and helmeted troops are only the most visible confirmation that this city is at war. Less visible signs are everywhere — in the closed and darkened shops, the fragmentary street markets, the queues which build up in seconds when an individual hawk sets up to sell perishable goods.

From time to time lorries pass, their trailers piled high with broken glass and twisted metal. Occasionally, the remains of a bicycle can be identified. Everyone who sees it knows that it could have been the bicycle of one of the Tiananmen Square students; no comment is necessary. Four days ago the markets were thriving, packed with people and with goods. Colourful stalls were piled high with oranges, apples, pineapples and melons. Cabbages were of so little value that they were piled under street corner shelters and left undisturbed. Now, the



real markets are shut; the racketeers and speculators have come in their place.

The foreign community has been shaken by yesterday's siege of the Jiangmenwai diplomatic compound, which was for many the last straw. Britons, who said even hours before that they would

not leave until the last possible moment, decided to join yesterday's special flight for diplomatic families.

The West Germany Embassy, with characteristic efficiency, has posted notices about its evacuation plans in all hotels where foreigners might be staying. A big

notice at the entrance of the Peking Sheraton warns Americans — and, added in black ink, Britons — not to go out after dark. The hotel is receiving Westerners evacuated from the city centre. It has no more rooms.

In such an atmosphere rumours multiply. Four days ago rumours

about shifts in the leadership were still being channelled through the students on Tiananmen Square. Many of them proved correct. Now the rumours have become desperate and extreme. Some betray a close acquaintance with the stories of atrocities against foreigners perpetrated by the Boxers during the siege of Peking in 1899-1900 — but it is a brave individual who would discount them altogether.

Perhaps in response to such rumours, those Chinese who receive visitors to Peking — whether fleeing tourists, evacuated students or foreign correspondents — seem to feel a need to compensate for the anarchy and brutality of the streets. Service everywhere comes with a sympathetic smile. Even at the surly old Beijing Hotel, which has been in the front-line since Sunday, the Chinese equivalent of good morning now greets a telephone caller, rather than the abrupt Chinese "Yes" produced before.

Recent issues of the English language *China Daily* still show the signs of resisting rigid censorship. A page of international news

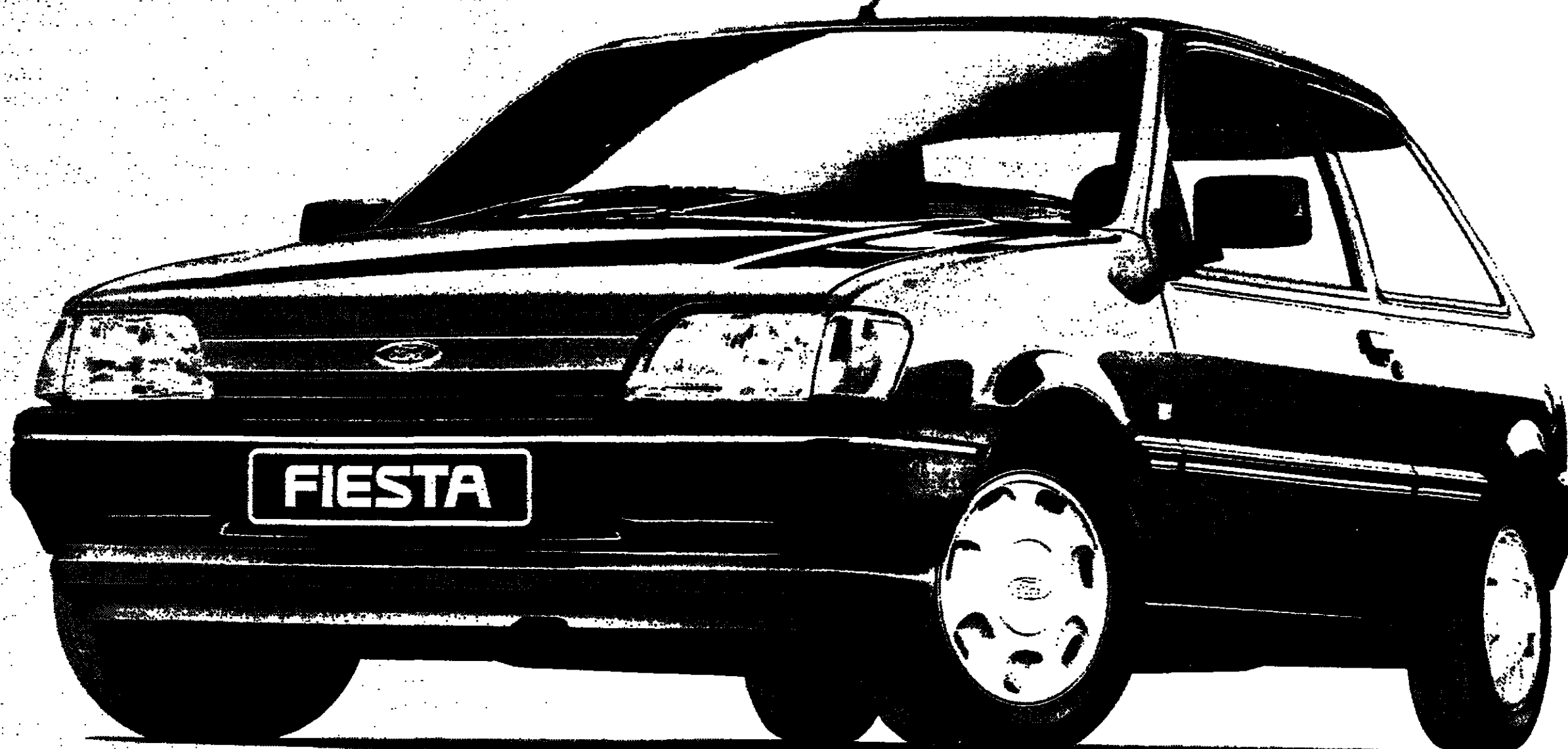
provides an oblique running commentary on the situation in Peking.

On Tuesday — the latest available issue — the front page published a report of the Soviet train explosion; the headline neglected to mention that such loss of life had been in the Soviet Union. There was an article headed "Air drops of food in Sri Lanka disaster". Ten die in Philippines shootings," said another.

Inside the economics page presented an item-by-item indictment of any attempt to reverse China's open-door policy. "China's ties with West Europe ease," said one headline. "Third World likes EC aid offer." "Trade with Taiwan is up substantially." News of increased trade with the Soviet Union was relegated to a smaller space on a further page.

Journalists, rarely the most popular visitors at such times, are greeted with special warmth, as though being asked to make the world aware of what is happening to the Chinese capital. At the time of writing, direct telephone lines are still open.

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June 11th to June 18th will be a week of special events at participating Ford dealers all over Britain.

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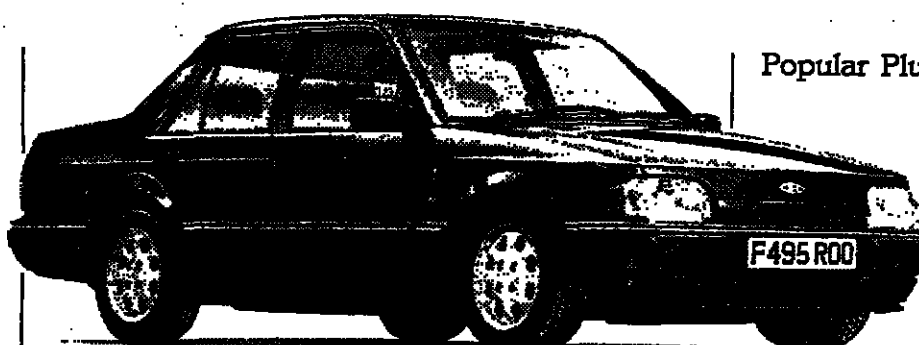
This could be a great day out for you and the family – a drive in the country to a set destination, a simple quiz, and lots of great prizes at stake, including a new Fiesta.

But, perhaps more important, if you take part, you could bring a little ray of sunshine into a lot of young lives. Because, if enough people enter and between them they drive far enough, Ford is going to donate ten new Sunshine Buses to the Variety Club of Great Britain who do so much to help these children.

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in at your nearest participating Ford dealer between 9.30a.m. and 2.00p.m. then, subject to there being a place on the challenge, he'll explain the rest.

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Popular Plus models and a free car telephone on 2.9i Granadas and Scorpions.

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Or, if you can't make it in person, ring free for more information on 0800 01 01 12.



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*Maximum retail prices as at March 16th 1989 including delivery. Delivery is to Dealer premises with exception of Channel Islands and Isle of Wight when a further charge will be made.

US nuclear plant closed in show of public discontent

From Charles Bremner, Washington

In a demonstration of growing anti-nuclear sentiment in America, the residents of Sacramento, California's state capital, have voted to close a local power station.

The action against the Rancho Seco station marks the first time that voters have scrapped an operating nuclear plant.

The decision, passed by 54 per cent of the electorate, is expected to lead to the launch of similar campaigns across the United States.

About a dozen close-down votes in various parts of the country have previously failed.

Rancho Seco, built 15 years ago, has one of the worst safety records of any of the plants in the United States. In 1985, a failure in a control system caused it to be closed for two years.

In New York, Mr Mario Cuomo, the state Governor, is in the process of trying to implement a scheme to close a controversial nuclear station at Shoreham on Long Island.

Local residents have resisted the station, which is not yet operating, mainly because there was no acceptable way to evacuate the population from the island in the event of an emergency.

In New Hampshire last weekend, more than 600 people were arrested in demonstrations at the new Seabrook nuclear plant.

The controversy over the nuclear stations is creating a dilemma for politicians and members of the power in-

dustry because conventional thermal stations, the main alternative to nuclear ones, are increasingly coming under fire for the pollution they cause in the atmosphere.

Nuclear power, once the bright hope of America's economic planners, accounts for about 18 per cent of the country's electricity output. Stations are still being built, but public opposition — the so-called "not in my backyard



Anti-nuclear: Mr Cuomo, the New York Governor, has blocked many new projects.

Last November, however, voters in Massachusetts turned down a referendum which would have prohibited the generation of nuclear waste. That would have forced the closure of the state's two nuclear plants.

The Rancho Seco plant, 15 miles from the city, has been

operating at less than half capacity since it was repaired in 1987. Its owners, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, said yesterday they would start closing it immediately, although it could take up to 20 years to transfer all its radioactive fuel.

The campaign to close the 913-megawatt installation rallied California's powerful environmental lobby. Mr Tom Hayden, the state assemblyman, and Miss Jane Fonda, his wife, raised more than \$100,000 (£63,000) for the campaign.

A year ago voters narrowly approved its continued operation with the proviso that they would vote again 12 months later.

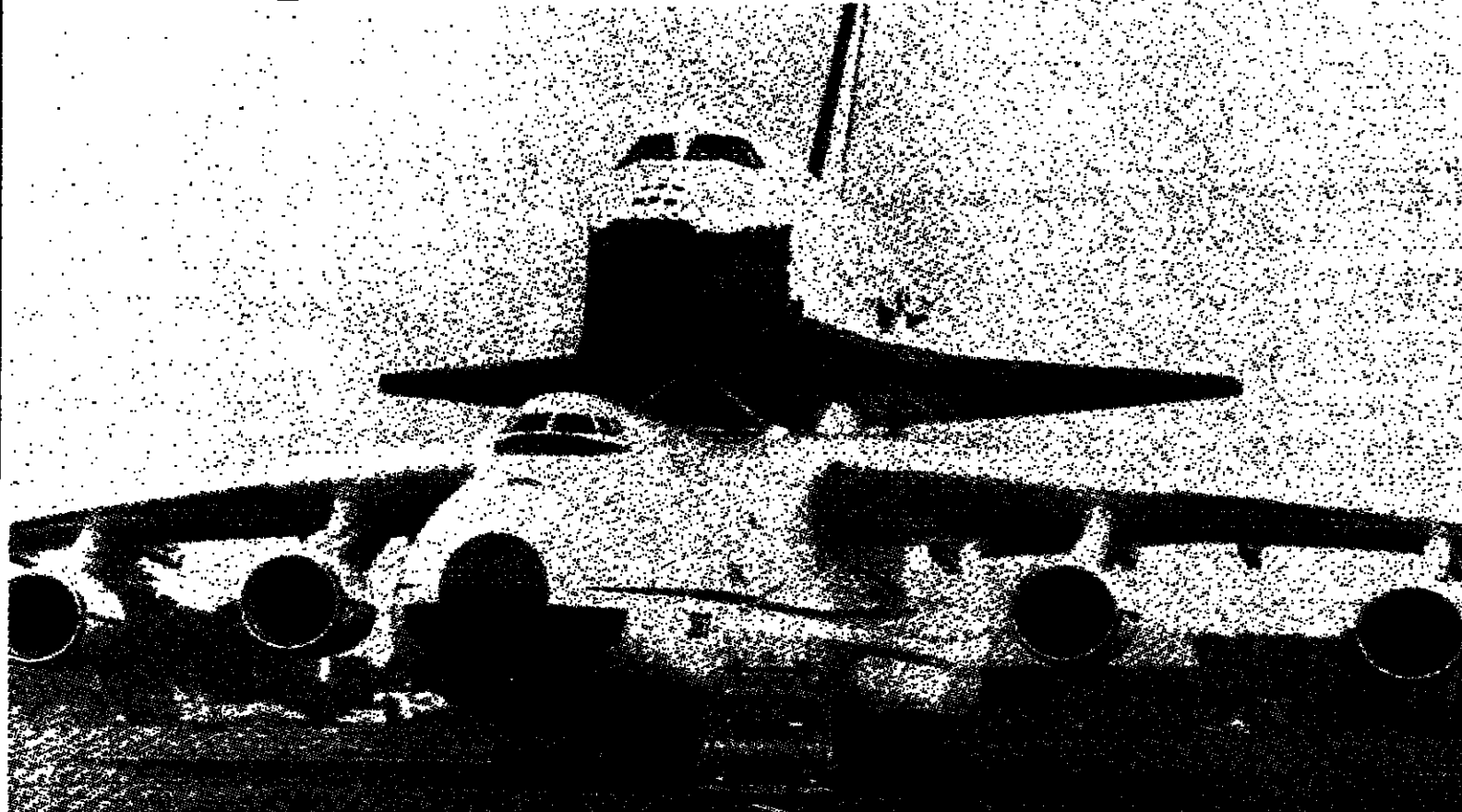
Continuing mechanical problems and rising electricity bills appear to have tipped the balance in favour of closure.

In another action demonstrating the Government's sensitivity to the nuclear issue, the FBI has launched a sweeping investigation into the management of the Rocky Flats plant in Colorado, which produces the plutonium for US nuclear warheads.

It is seeking to determine whether employees falsified documents showing that the plant was complying with clean air and water laws, and whether employees concealed contamination.

A team of some 70 FBI agents descended on Rocky Flats and also on the headquarters of the US Department of Energy in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Soviet space shuttle arrives for Paris air show



A car guides an aircraft carrying the Soviet space shuttle Buran to its display place at the air show at Le Bourget airport, north of Paris, which opens today.

German nuclear waste may be sent to Britain

By Ian Murray, Bonn and Pearce Wright

The West German Government is to abandon a controversial scheme to build a nuclear reprocessing plant in Bavaria and will instead send waste fuel to France and, possibly, to Britain for treatment. A solar energy plant is to be built instead.

British Nuclear Fuels said this week that it was negotiating contracts worth about DM 5 billion (£1.6 billion) to reprocess 4,000 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel from West Germany, in addition to an existing contract to take 800 tonnes.

The company also confirmed that it

was undercutting its French counterpart, Cogema, with whom West Germany has already signed a deal, to get a share of the German business by offering to reprocess fuel for DM 1,250 (£403) a kilogram compared with DM 1,500.

The spent fuel will be treated at a new thermal oxide reprocessing plant, Thorp, under construction at Sellafield in Cumbria. An announcement of the deal is expected shortly, which is likely to cover the needs of West Germany over the next decade, before the French contract comes into force.

Construction of what was to be the first reprocessing plant in West Ger-

many began on an 81-acre site at Wackersdorf in 1985. So far it has cost DM 2.6 billion (£825 million). The area had to be surrounded by high fences and patrolled to stop sabotage by protesters. The security costs alone are estimated to be about DM 71 million. The local Citizens' Initiative Protest Group raised DM 13 million to fund its campaign and protesters laid siege to the site.

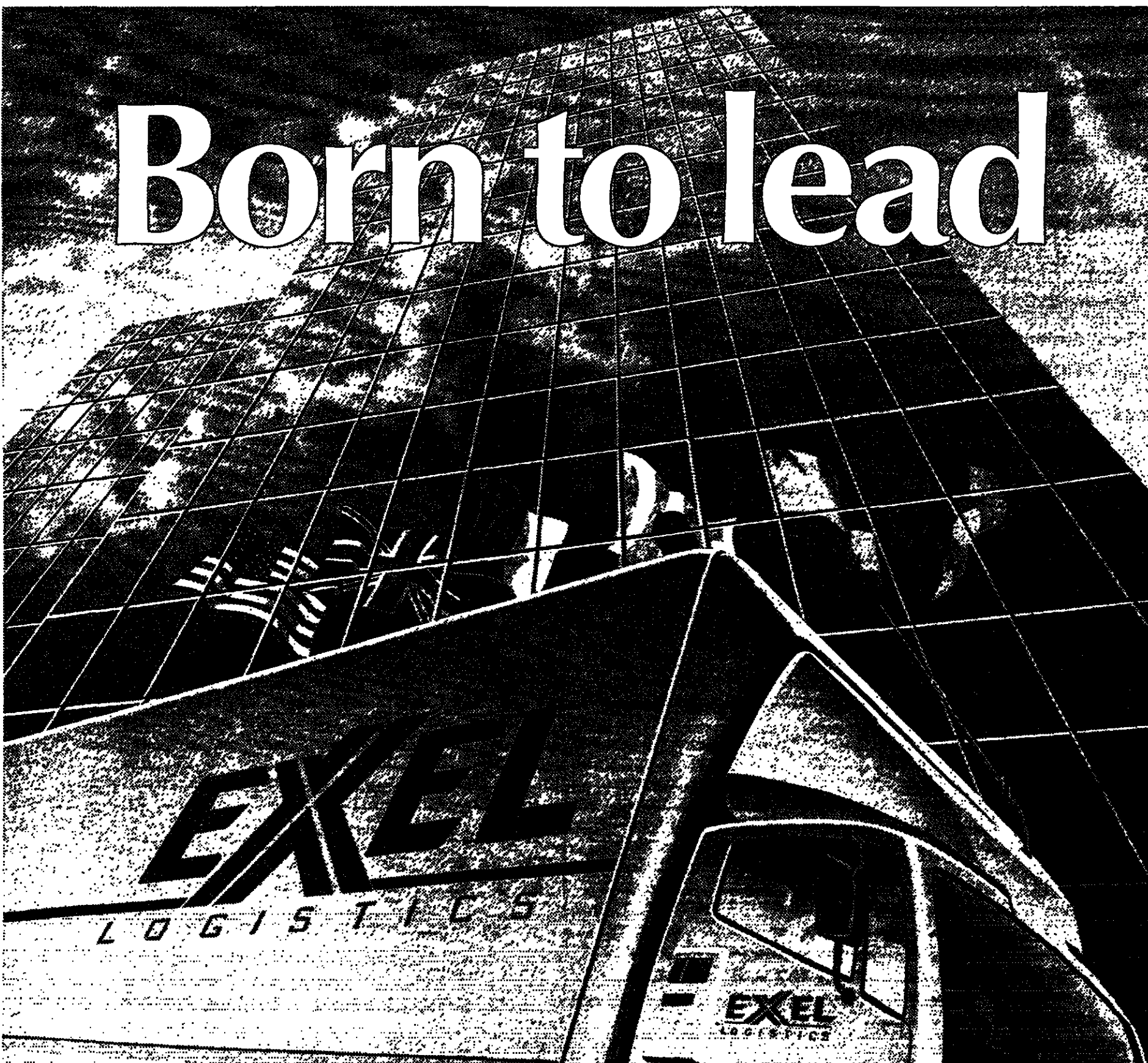
What finally changed the Government's mind was the lesser cost of sending nuclear waste to France or Britain for reprocessing. The plant was to have treated 350 tonnes of waste a year from 1995, but the French

plant, run by Cogema, quoted a figure two-thirds lower for doing the same work on up to 500 tonnes annually for a 15-year period from 1999. It was an offer the West German electricity concern, Veba, could not refuse.

The Bavarian Government was strongly in favour of a high-tech industry, providing good jobs and bringing prosperity to the region.

Herr Theo Waigel, the CSU leader who became Finance Minister in April, fought for an alternative project. After the decision to abandon the nuclear scheme, Siemens said it was ready to work with Bayernwerk AG on a solar energy plant.

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168 feared dead in Surinam crash

Paramaribo (AP, AFP) — At least 168 people died when a Surinam Airways DC8 jetliner thought to be carrying 181 passengers and seven crew on a flight from The Netherlands crashed near this capital city's airport while trying to land in thick fog, the government-run news agency and airline officials said.

Anthony Nesty, the Surinamese swimmer who won a gold medal at the Seoul Olympics, was among the passengers and AVRO, the private Dutch television channel, said Surinam's Army Chief of Staff, Major Len Van Tai, was also on the flight, as were three Dutch football players of Surinam descent.

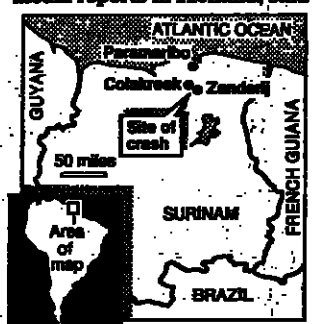
It was not immediately clear if any of them were among the 13 known survivors in hospital whose condition, the Surinam News Agency said, was not known.

An airline spokesman in The Netherlands, the South American country's former colonial ruler, put the number of survivors at 14 and said 182 people had been on board — 173 passengers and nine crew. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the discrepancies in the figures.

"There is a great number of deaths," Mr Leo Marapin, the airline's station manager in Amsterdam, said, adding that the plane, which took off late on Tuesday from Schiphol

airport, had tried to land twice in "extremely bad weather" before the crash. He said it hit a treetop on its third landing attempt.

There also were differences in reports on when and where the accident occurred. The airline statement said it happened at 4:15 am local time when the plane was a mile short of Zanderij airport. Other reports, including some media reports in Holland, said



It occurred five miles from the airport.

The cause of the crash, in which the aircraft split in two, was not known. Surinam radio reports quoted nearby residents as saying they heard an explosion shortly before the plane struck the ground.

Reporters at the scene said burned bodies and wreckage were scattered over a wide area. The Surinam News Agency said the plane had been flown by an American crew.

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Britain feels better for it.

Superpowers agree pact to reduce risk of military force

From Charles Bremner, Washington

The US and the Soviet Union have agreed not to use force against each other in the event of an incident caused by misunderstanding or accident.

The accord, called "the prevention of dangerous military activities", is to be signed in Moscow next week by Admiral William Crowe, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. His tour of the Soviet Union, the first by America's top military officer, is a sign of the changing relationship between the superpowers.

Teams of US and Soviet military officers drew up the terms of the accord in secret talks over the past year. It is aimed at defusing local crises

playing a prominent role in President Bush's policy-making inner circle, devised the outline of the accord in talks last year with Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the former Soviet Chief of Staff who paid an historic visit to Washington last summer. The two men got on so well that one American official described them as "soul mates".

Admiral Crowe is to be shown round a range of hitherto secret Soviet installations next week by General Mikhail Moiseyev, the successor to Marshal Akhromeyev.

The admiral displayed something of the new US thinking on Tuesday when he was asked whether he considered the Soviet Union his enemy. "They're not my enemy, I'm a military man and we do what we have to do, but I don't particularly look at them as an enemy. Incidentally, the last major war we were in, they were our allies."

● BRUSSELS: Nato started work yesterday deciding how to implement conventional force cuts proposed by President Bush (Reuters reports). Arms control experts from the 16 Nato states met on the eve of talks between the alliance's defence ministers to assess the impact on defence strategy of the proposed cutbacks.

"It's going to be a ticklish business deciding where the cuts fall," said one military official. "They have to be made in such a way that no one member feels that its national defences have been weakened."

The experts were working on the detail of President Bush's proposals for cuts in US troop levels of 30,000 to 275,000 in West Europe and reductions in combat aircraft and helicopters so long as Moscow made cuts to similar levels.

Officials expected the defence ministers, at their normal spring session of the defence planning committee tomorrow and Friday, to endorse the US package.

Deputies set economic hurdle for Ryzhkov

Moscow (Reuters) — Deputies to the new Soviet Parliament's upper house told Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, bidding for a new term in the post, that he would have to act firmly to rescue the ailing economy.

But the 542-member Supreme Soviet approved the nomination of Mr Ryzhkov, aged 59, and that of another close associate of President Gorbachev, Mr Gennady Kolbin, to another key job.

"You must be firm and act decisively to bring our economy out of the critical situation where ordinary people cannot find the most simple things in the shops," one deputy told Mr Ryzhkov, as millions watched on television across the country.

Another told the Prime Minister, first appointed in 1985 soon after Mr Gorbachev became Communist Party leader, that recent documents issued by the Council of Ministers reeked of old-style bureaucracy "and propaganda slogans".

In another development Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Kremlin rebel, cut short a challenge to Mr Gorbachev from many younger deputies, in a gesture suggesting he was ready to work with the Soviet leader to ensure the reform continued.

Proposed by many deputies as alternative candidate for the post of chairman of the watchdog People's Control Committee, Mr Yeltsin took the floor to deliver a brief speech declaring his backing for Mr Kolbin, Mr Gorbachev's candidate.

Mr Kolbin, who over the past 20 years has three times been in charge of purging Soviet republics or regional party organizations after the dismissal of leaders accused of corruption, then won overwhelming support.

Both nominations now have to be approved by the 2,250-member Congress of People's



Mr Yeltsin deep in thought during a Supreme Soviet debate yesterday after cutting short a challenge to Mr Gorbachev.

Deputies, the lower house of the new parliamentary structure put in place by Mr Gorbachev's *perestroika* and which has been in session for two weeks.

Despite the state of the economy and widespread shortages of food and consumer goods, Mr Ryzhkov is a popular figure who is regarded as a key supporter of the reform programme. In a speech to the Supreme Soviet yesterday, he said a new government under his leadership would focus attention on improving food supplies.

"The main goal now is to improve the situation in agriculture," he said. "This would

reduce the tension in society by 70 per cent."

In a move meeting demands voiced by Mr Yeltsin, he told a session of the congress later in

Moscow (Reuters) — Seven more people have died of injuries sustained in the gas explosion that set two trains ablaze in the Urals region at the weekend, leaving 462 people dead or missing and more than 700 in hospital.

the day that the Government proposed to abolish a special department of the Health Ministry giving privileged treatment to senior party and state officials. President

Gorbachev, who over the past two weeks has skillfully presided over both chambers with little sign of anger despite often direct and personal criticism of himself, showed some irritation yesterday when challenged on Mr Kolbin's nomination.

"To prove that this is real democracy, please offer us an alternative candidate," one young deputy told him.

"You can accept or not accept my choice, but me back in the starting block — and I will think again," Mr Gorbachev said.

Some 17 per cent of the deputies present failed to back Mr Kolbin, with 34 voting

against his nomination and 53 abstaining. Only nine voted against Mr Ryzhkov and 31 abstained.

● Uzbekistan toll: The death toll rose to 67 yesterday in bloody rioting between ethnic factions in Uzbekistan, and officials said 9,000 soldiers did not have the situation fully under control (AP reports).

"It is now difficult to maintain stability in areas where Uzbeks and Meskhetians live together," Mr Vadim Bakatin, the Interior Minister, told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. He said 11,000 of the area's 15,000 ethnic Turkic minority already had been evacuated to refugee camps.

Accused tells of admiration for Palme

Stockholm (Reuters) — Mr Christer Pettersson, aged 42, on trial here charged with murdering Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, in 1986, told the court he so much admired Palme that he once stole a picture of him, and wrote a poem in a condolence book.

On the second day of his trial, Mr Pettersson, who denies the charge, admitted he was an alcoholic. "I have led a humdrum life... filled with constant boozing in the streets and at home," he said.

Locusts back

Rome (Reuters) — Two months after the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said that Africa's worst locust plague in 30 years had been all but eradicated, swarms are again plaguing West Africa.

Jumbo drops

Chicago (AFP) — A United Airlines jumbo jet carrying 243 people hit invisible clear-air turbulence over Kansas and dropped thousands of feet, injuring at least 20 passengers, officials said.

Dumping row

Geneva (Reuters) — Mr John Nkomo, Zimbabwe's Labour Minister, told the ILO meeting here that industrialized nations were turning Third World countries into chemical waste dumps.

Qantas strike

Sydney (Reuters) — Qantas, Australia's international airline, has cancelled all flights, affecting about 10,000 passengers, because of an engineers' strike.

Pilot charges

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkey is studying Soviet charges, backing an extradition demand, against a pilot who defected to Turkey last month in his MiG 29 jet.

Peace talks

Cayenne (Reuters) — French-mediated talks on ending three years of civil war in Surinam are beginning in this town in French Guiana.

Hawke visit

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, will visit Britain from June 20 to 24, Downing Street announced.

Rocard orders cuts in planned defence spending

From Susan MacDonald Paris

After a long government battle over defence spending, M Michel Rocard, the French Prime Minister, has ordered cuts to planned increases in the country's defence budget over the next four years.

The cuts will include reducing the yearly number of underground nuclear test explosions in the South Pacific and delays to one or two of the main defence projects. From 1990, France will carry out a total of six,

instead of eight, nuclear tests at its underground testing sites on French Polynesian atolls.

These tests have been a continuous source of discord between France and Australia, but the French Government has always insisted that they are essential to France's independent nuclear deterrent programme.

The revised four-year budget was presented at the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers yesterday prior to going before Parliament in the autumn. It calls for a 1990 to 1993 overall defence outlay of 437.8 billion

francs (£41.7 billion). This saving of 42 billion francs over the original provisions was summed up by a government spokesman as "coherence in French defence policy while respecting national economy constraints".

Outside auditors will also be invited to inspect the defence accounts alongside defence and finance ministry experts.

The Defence Minister, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, had fought hard to preserve national defence spending. Yesterday it was underlined that none

of the defence projects close to President Mitterrand's heart was to be scrapped.

There will, however, be delays. The ground-to-ground S4 missile, designed to replace in 1998 the present S3 system, has been put on hold. The first of the new generation nuclear submarines, planned for 1996, will be delayed for "around six months".

The version of the Rafale fighter plane destined for the French Navy will be delayed from its 1996 deadline to 1998, as will the new nuclear aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle.

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June 7 1989

PARLIAMENT

Decision to sell Shorts wins general welcome

The Government decision to sell Short Brothers of Belfast to Bombardier, a Canadian aerospace company, was generally welcomed in the Commons as an end to uncertainty about the company's future.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that the £390 million loan by the Government earlier this year would be written off and he had offered grants of £79 million for new capital investment and £18 million for other costs, mainly training.

Mr James Marshall, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that Labour did not like privatization and believed that the Government had been prepared to provide the level of financial assistance that it was now prepared to give in order to get rid of the company, Shorts could have flourished and been profitable as a publicly owned company.

However, Labour preferred the Bombardier bid of the two being considered.

One Ulster Unionist MP, Mr John D. Taylor, said that it was deplorable that ministerial delays to the decision had caused damage.

Mr Tom Doherty (Lisnagrove, Lab) said that Ulster MPs should show gratitude for such public investment in a Northern Ireland company.

Mr King said that the Government had been working with Shorts management since July to seek a successful transfer of the company to the private sector.

In March, he had selected two out of six preliminary proposals for the purchase of the company from the Canadian company Bombardier and a partnership of GEC and Fokker.

"Their final proposals have now been fully reviewed, and I can advise the House that I have today approved heads of agree-

N IRELAND

ment for the sale of Short Brothers plc to Bombardier."

Under the heads of agreement, Bombardier would pay £30 million for Shorts state capital.

The Government had offered Shorts, under its new ownership, grants of £79 million for capital investment over the next four years, and £18 million for other costs, mainly training.

The £390 million loan advanced by the Government earlier this year to repay its commercial debt for past losses would be written off. A further £275 million would be advanced to recapitalize the company, repay remaining borrowings and to meet anticipated losses on existing contracts.

At least £60 million of that sum would be in the form of an interest-free loan, which would be progressively cancelled when specified targets were met. It would be immediately repayable in the event of a material breach by Bombardier of the commitments it had given in relation to the future of the company.

The Government would fund the company until completion of the sale, but its undertakings in respect of Shorts' liabilities would be withdrawn at privatization.

Bombardier recognized the important position occupied by Shorts in the Northern Ireland economy and intended to acquire it as a long-term investment and to maintain it as a complete entity with the objective of developing three main divisions: aircraft, aerostructures and missiles.

Shorts' aircraft division would become a full partner in the detailed design and development of the Canadian RJ Regional Jet and the Government had offered £18 million towards development costs on Shorts' part of the work.

Bombardier had a range of products in the transportation industry. It had acquired

Canadair in 1986 from the Canadian Government and had successfully developed it.

The scale of the sums involved illustrated clearly the problems that Shorts had faced in public ownership as a relatively small enterprise in the complex and competitive aerospace field.

"At the same time it has developed products and skills which, with the right leadership and organization, can once again make Shorts a successful and viable operation which contributes fully to the economy of Northern Ireland."

The Government believed that the commercial disciplines of the private sector would give Shorts, as part of a larger group under Bombardier's ownership, the best opportunity for a brighter future and that it fully justified the large investment of public funds.

Mr Marshall said that it was appropriate that the decision should be made on the eve of the Paris Air Show. Labour welcomed the removal of uncertainty about the future of Shorts.

"We still continue to dislike the Government's privatization policy, in particular as it applies to Shorts."

"Our view has been and still remains that, if the Government had been prepared to provide the level of financial assistance that it is prepared to give now to get rid of the company, then Shorts, as a publicly owned company, could have flourished and could have been profitable."

Out of the two bids, Labour believed that the decision should be in Bombardier's favour and was therefore delighted that Mr King had seen fit to accept that view.

Shorts was of pivotal importance to the economy of Northern Ireland. He did not feel that a commitment to the province was fully expounded in the statement.

Had Mr King received any assurance about the existing product range and the likely level of employment? Shorts

was a centre of technological excellence. Had he received any assurance about research and development at the very frontiers of high technology?

Mr King said that a new structure had been needed. He had announced assistance today of £780 million. The idea of putting more money in the same direction as before without a substantial change in arrangements had been inconceivable.

He was satisfied with Bombardier's commitment to making a success of Shorts. That was one of the commitments into which they had entered and would seek to maintain in its totality.

The Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South, OUP) welcomed the statement on behalf of his colleagues. Did Mr King see a speedier conclusion to the negotiations over Shorts than had been the case with Harland and Wolff because the delay so far had caused a loss of morale, and workers had left Shorts as a result?

Did Mr King perceive any difficulty with the Office of Fair Trading or the European Commission over the injection of capital?

Mr King said there had been a more complicated procedure with Harland and Wolff because of the management buyout and employee participation.

He hoped that if he succeeded with the EC and the Office of Fair Trading it would be possible for the matter to be concluded within three months.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) asked what requirements had been written into the agreement to ensure that discrimination in employment at Shorts would end once and for all.

Mr King said that the substantial injection of public funds was for the benefit, not of one community or another, and that had been accepted in the commitment and obligations which Bombardier would enter into. He knew that the company would seek to be a good employer.



Mr James Kilfedder: Suggestion that mixed teams should go out to seek investment

Mr James Kilfedder (North Down, DUP) said that he had suggested six months ago that it was time for the Northern Ireland Office to send out, not English ministers but a representative delegation of politicians, Unionists and nationalists, Protestants and Roman Catholics, to the United States and to other countries to seek jobs and investment for Northern Ireland.

Mr King said that he would welcome the assistance of politicians, elected Northern Ireland MPs, in the work that his office tried to do to bring jobs to the province. That was the first offer of assistance that he had had, and he welcomed it.

Mr John D. Taylor (Strangford, OUP) said the delay had caused great unrest in Northern Ireland and had hit the morale of employees at Shorts. It was deplorable.

The lack of investment by the present Northern Ireland Office in the past few years had been one reason for the decline in the fortunes of Shorts.

Was the successful Belfast City Airport included in the sale?

Mr King said that Mr Taylor's talk of "deplorable" delay was a deplorable contribution.

The airport was included in the sale.

Later, Mr King said that Fokker would continue to be an important partner for Shorts.

Mr Doherty said that he would like metaphorically to vomit when he heard some reactions from Northern Ireland MPs. What firm on this side of the water has had anything like £780 million of Government money?

Mr King said that he understood Mr Doherty's reaction to the harsh and unpleasant approach of one Ulster MP, but the people in Shorts would appreciate the investment.

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Phone system finds defender

Lord St John of Fawley (C) complained during Lords questions that British Telecom's arbitrary division of telephone number entries into residential and business directories made it extremely difficult to find, for example, doctors' numbers.

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that BT's market research on the changed format disclosed that 71 per cent of the public were satisfied with the two categories of directory: 2 per cent were not satisfied and 19 per cent had no preference.

Lord Orr-Ewing (C) and Lord Penton (Lab) praised the French system of a computerized on-line, direct-dialling system for finding telephone numbers, which did away with the need for directories.

Lord Young said that the French system was expensive. It might be free to subscribers but not to the taxpayer. BT's system was far more competitive.

Apple spray 'dangerous'

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) refused an emergency Commons debate on Alar, a chemical growth regulator used on apples, which has been banned in the US.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, Dem) said that Alar was sprayed on apple trees at this time of the year. It was particularly dangerous for children, who ate more apples and had more time to develop cancer.

A week ago the Government had said that it had no plans to ban Alar and did not believe it to be particularly dangerous. If that were still its intention, it should publish its reasons.

October date for new test

The new motor-cycle test, where the examiner accompanies the rider either on another machine or by car, is to be introduced on October 2. Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written reply.

The fee is to go up from £16.50 to £24. The cost of a car driving test is £18.

Young trees destroyed

Between 50,000 and 60,000 young trees had been destroyed in the past few weeks because of the changes in Government financial assistance for the forestry industry, Lord Taylor of Grylle (SDP), former chairman of the Forestry Commission, said during questions in the Lords.

Safer petrol

Lead-free petrol is now available at all motorway service stations, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written reply. The number of pumps is being increased to meet demand.

New peer

The Earl of Essex, a retired peer from Lancashire, took his seat on the crossbenches in the Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister. Debate on the Army. Lords (3): Water Bill, report, second day.

Scottish students told to preserve free speech

While student unions carried out their proper role, and freedom of speech was preserved in Scottish universities and colleges, there was no need for Parliament to become involved with legislation, Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said at question time.

However, in dealing with questions about student demonstrations on campuses, he said: I have given a clear commitment that, should there be a problem as in England, we would not hesitate to go down the legislative road.

He had received few representations on the subject since when the Education (No 2) Act 1986, had been enacted they did

not consider it necessary to extend the provision to Scotland.

The Scottish Office still saw no need to do so, but before reaching a final decision it would consult the Secretary of State for Education and Science the conclusions of his present review of the operation of the provision in England and Wales.

Mr Alan Amos (Hertford, C) asked how he justified the law's being different in Scotland, since universities were nationally funded.

Mr Forsyth said that freedom of speech should be a feature of universities north or south of the border.

Later, he said that when he

had visited Morsy recently there had been a placard saying "Thanks for coming, Michael" but he regretted that there had been no such greeting when there had been a demonstration in Glasgow during a visit he made there.

Mr Henry McLellan, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that he was pleased that the minister was distancing himself from the hard right on the Conservative back benches who made a plaything of Scottish education. He should address himself to the real issue, investment in higher education, not the behaviour of students.

Mr Forsyth said he had record numbers in higher education as a result of investment.

Bill would restrict honours

Leave to introduce a Bill under the 10-minute rule to restrict the granting of honours for political purposes was granted by 134 votes to 128 - majority, 6.

Mr Bruce Gonnell (The Wirgin, Lab) said that his Bill, the Political Honours (Amendment) Bill, was based on a leading article of December 31, 1987, which said that honours should be taken out of the direct gift of the Prime Minister.

Among Conservative MPs there were about a hundred knights. Only four Tories who had served continuously since 1974 had not been so honoured.

At this, Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot, C) rose and bowed to cheers from all sides.

SDP debate on Europe

Thatcher attitude attacked

Mrs Thatcher's attitude to the European Community was attacked in the Lords by Viscount Chandon when he opened an SDP-initiated debate on Britain's participation in the EC.

He said that the Prime Minister's single-mindedness in confronting her enemies turned to simple-mindedness in trying to reconstructively to the complex and intertwined fabric of the European movement and the European Community.

The Visa Card vision of Sir Geoffrey Howe reduced the Government's ideal to that of a prefabricated hypermarket, while the inconsistencies and contradictions of the Prime Minister's speech in Bruges portrayed her fear of a great

carivorous European monster threatening to devour the British people and their traditions like a child's fear of the dark.

So long as every member state had the individual right to revoke the Treaty of Rome, sovereignty could be safely not irreversibly pooled.

The Government's continuing prevarication over full membership of the European Monetary System, and its kneejerk opposition even to consideration of progress on the evolution of monetary union, were symbols of the Government's, and most of all the Prime Minister's, muddled concept of national sovereignty.

Lord Thomas of Swymester (C), chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, said whatever

happened in the disputes between the Government and the Commission, many Europeans would find some of their interests and ideals threatened by what they see as centralization, corporatism, and a lack of adequate democratic control.

A line should be drawn between what would remain the national sphere of competence and the European sphere. That would be unpopular with the Commission, which would regard it as not *communautaire*, and with the Government, which would consider it premature.

At the same time, something should be done or the European ideal would be poisoned by continuing arguments about radishes or school textbooks.

Constitution fair to Scots, MPs are told

The present constitutional arrangements provided for full and fair representation of Scotland's interests, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland during Commons questions, when asked to comment on the Government's policy on devolution.

Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands West, Lab) said that most Scots supported Labour Party policy on Scotland. The Government was giving short-term succour and comfort to the separatist minority whose slogan was unrealistic in Scotland and unworkable in Europe.

Mr Rifkind said that Scotland and England, as all other parts of the United Kingdom, saw Parliament in Westminster as their Parliament.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) said that many of the

proposals coming under the so-called banner of devolution were difficult to separate from separatism and the question of the presence of Scotland in Europe.

Mr Rifkind said that the Labour Party was running scared, because to produce such a ridiculous solution as independence in the United Kingdom, which had neither grammatical sense nor political wisdom, was something that would live in the haunts of the mad.

Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) asked whether he accepted that support for independence in Europe was 52 per cent or 61 per cent as variously estimated by System 3?

Mr Rifkind said that the Scottish people thought that Parliament was for all the United Kingdom, what would their reaction be to the fact that five out of the first ten questions

SCOTLAND

on Scotland on the Order Paper today came from English MPs?

Mr Rifkind said that the English MPs had the courtesy to be present when their questions were asked, unlike Mr Jim Sillars (Glasgow, SNP), who had yet again manifestly failed to appear.

"Even when he puts down a question which would undoubtedly have been reached he withdraws because he has not got the guts to carry out his parliamentary responsibilities."

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that the Scottish Institute of Chartered Accountants had voted to retain their own identity. That was an

example of devolution which put power in Scotland. Was Mr Rifkind not following the SNP line in refusing to compromise with the electorate?

Mr Rifkind said that one of the strengths of the union of Scotland in which Scotland had participated for the past 200 years was that many Scottish national institutions had been preserved and enhanced.

Savings from competitive tendering in the National Health Service in Scotland had increased from £600,000 to £25 million since the last general election.

Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the savings, 74 contracts, represented "substantial additional resources" for patient care over the next three or four years. Health

boards would continue to make progress in both the scope and range of services put to competitive tender and were much encouraged by their success to date.

Mr Samuel Galbraith, an Opposition spokesman on health in Scotland, said that competitive tendering was subject to some dubious accounting practices.

Many costs to the private contractor were hidden, to the disadvantage of the public sector tenderer.

There should be a full investigation into competitive tendering.

Mr Forsyth replied that the Opposition had first said no savings were to be made. Savings of £25 million had been made.

"Now we are getting bluster."

Kaufman expected to visit S Africa

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Gerald Kaufman is expected to go to South Africa next month, the first visit by a senior Labour politician for several years.

The shadow Foreign Secretary has received an invitation from the South African Council of Churches and arrangements for the trip are understood to be well advanced.

Mr Kaufman is also likely to go to Namibia, where he will be able to review the progress of the United Nations peace plan and the prospects for independent elections in the autumn.

Mr Neil Kinnock decided against including South Africa in his itinerary when he made his tour of the southern African front-line states last July.

But the Labour leader is understood to be enthusiastic about Mr Kaufman's visit.

Mr Kaufman will not be meeting members of the South African Government but will hold talks with opposition politicians and representatives of the freedom movement.

Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, was the last senior Labour figure to go to Pretoria.



Mr Kaufman: Invitation from council of churches

comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa, and for the release of Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned ANC leader.

Mr Kinnock went to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique last July. On the trip he had talks with the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo).

The Prime Minister went to the region in March.

Employment Bill: Third reading

Child labour will be exploited, says Opposition

The Employment Bill was given a third reading in the Commons by 106 votes to 30 - Government majority, 36 - after an all-night sitting.

MPs debated a series of technical amendments throughout the early hours of Wednesday and the Bill was given a third reading at 5.27am.

Labour MPs criticized the Bill as a further attack on trade union rights and a return to the exploitation of child labour.

Mr John Cope, Minister of State for Employment, moving third reading, said that the Bill removed unnecessary restrictions and widened the opportunities for women and young people.

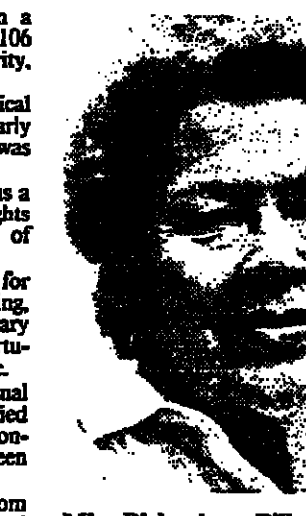
It contributed to a new national framework for training, simplified regulations for business, and constructed a fairer balance between employers and employees.

It removed no vital safeguards from anyone and was an important and constructive measure that should enjoy the support of the House.

Miss Jo Richardson, for the Opposition, said that the Bill did nothing to end sexual discrimination or to end low pay. It failed to recognize the contribution of part-time workers - who were mainly women - to the economy.

The changes to the regulations on the number of hours young people could work were a disgrace.

The Bill represented a missed opportunity. The number of young people coming on to the job market by



Miss Richardson: Bill does nothing to end sexual discrimination

the early 1990s would be down by almost a quarter. Something had to be done, but the answer was not more deregulation, which the Conservatives clung to like a sinking ship.

"There is a growing need for a proper training programme, which is adequately funded and properly supervised with real jobs at the end of the training period."

Mr James Wallace, Democrat spokesman on employment, said that

a number of protections for employees, which had existed for many years, would disappear. There would be exploitation of young people by unscrupulous employers.

Mrs Audrey Wise (Preston, Lab) said that it was a mean and nasty Bill from a mean and nasty Government. It extended the rights and freedoms, not of workers, but of the worst sort of employers. It showed a Government that did not care about working people.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said that the Government saw young people as cheap labour. It was another attack on trade union power. The Bill would lead to an increase in industrial accidents because it would enable employers to force youngsters to work longer hours. The blood that would be spilt would be on the Treasury benches of the House of Commons.

The campaign against the Bill would go beyond Parliament. It would be taken to the trade union movement which would campaign with working people to ensure the reinstatement of workers' rights by negotiation or industrial action.

During the earlier report stage, Mr Robert Wareing, an Opposition spokesman on employment, moved amendments banning discrimination in employment on the grounds of disability and making statutory the requirement that employers should take on disabled people as 3 per cent of

the workforce. Disabled people required more than just sympathy, he said. They needed positive action. The Government's response would be watched carefully by the country's six million disabled people.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) said that the Government should try to persuade employers to accept the 3 per cent quota. Companies that broke the law should be prosecuted when persuasion failed. There was no substitute for the quota. Severely disabled people suffered abysmal discrimination.

SPECTRUM

The healthier attitude to studies

CLASS of 90 Stress is hitting students today, but many are trying to keep in good shape. Our universities and polytechnics guide continues with a health report by Alan Franks

If, as we repeatedly hear, today's job-motivated students have a more utilitarian approach, it follows that they have less time for the traditional, if experimental, excesses of their age group. The degree's the thing, and even the most alluring diversions that might impair their passage into the graduate market can have no place on their personal curriculum.

On the other hand, as the pressure to succeed has been intensified by competition for jobs, and as the more diligent see their study years as little less than a continuing audition for employment, does it not also follow that they are more likely candidates for stress-related ills than their predecessors?

There is truth in both assumptions. Sex and drugs, those long-standing enemies of promise, are handled with care, while stress itself is handled by the professionals. If this runs the risk of grave over-simplification, it is none the less true that students, like the rest of the population, are more amenable than at any time to stress treatment by counselling.

It is both a cause and a symptom of that phenomenon that, according to the National

Union of Students, there have never before been as many professional counselling services for university and polytechnic students. Yet although the stigma surrounding such services may have declined, the agents of stress go beyond degree anxiety. It is, after all, a taxing time in which to study, what with such lurking problems as student loans, removal from the welfare benefits system, the spiralling cost of rented accommodation, particularly in London, and even the fear of exam papers going unmarked.

One university doctor insists that this last factor, made worse by a threat of industrial action from the Association of University Teachers, is taking its toll. "I would not say it is resulting in an alarming increase in anxiety," says Dr Malcolm Bottomley, of Bath University's medical centre, "but it has almost certainly exacerbated the tensions students have. They reason that no marking means no results, no results means no degrees, and that no degrees means no jobs."

Students take better care of themselves today, even though some surveys have shown that on their grant alone some cannot afford the minimum diet recommended by the Department of Health. However, the very tightness of their budget has bred a healthy tendency towards more vegetables and less red meat.

As for drugs, the universities and polytechnics consider there is no significant problem — unless you include the adult-sanctioned stimulant of alcohol. More and more doctors insist that we should do precisely this, and in so doing themselves they identify drink abuse as the single biggest scourge of student health.



Anxious? Students today have more reason than ever to feel under stress. They also have more opportunities of finding help and counselling.

Dr John Munroe, Durham University's medical officer, says, unrepentantly, that he made himself the most unpopular man in the city by objecting at the magistrates' court to an application for the extension of licensing hours. His sin was compounded by his victory.

"Look," he says, "there are 139 pubs here, 20 clubs, 16 university licences. Among the students there are more and more alcohol-related problems as each year goes by. Sometimes that can present itself as a behavioural disorder and sometimes as an academic one."

He adds: "It may be true on one level that there is a more 'sober' mood than there used to be, and that even occasional student rags are worthier than they once were. They support causes rather than just being excuses for a binge. But underneath all this, drink is the number one problem, and it is becoming so at a younger age. It is not so unusual to encounter students who have been drinking in some form from the age of 11."

Munroe estimates that in an academic year he will see 400-450 students, 8 per cent of the undergraduates. He is encouraged by the fact that a student with problems now has up to 10 channels of approach, including personal tutors, college heads and lecturers. At Durham every personal tutor has about a dozen students. Inevitably, the extent to which that relationship works is up to the student as much as the tutor.

"It is important to remember," Munroe says, "that today students are ready to seek help from one another first. We reckon that about 55 per cent of them do this."

Last autumn a Gallup survey reported that 23 per cent of students had admitted to having used so-called soft drugs at some time. For the vast majority of them the drug was cannabis. The

number who had used harder drugs was quite low: heroin, 1 per cent, cocaine, 2 per cent, LSD, 2 per cent, amphetamine, 3 per cent.

The same survey suggested that students have been more responsive to Aids warnings than the general population. Twenty-one per cent declared they had changed their behaviour (against 5 per cent of the general population); 8 per cent said they had considered changing it (3 per cent 71 per cent said they had not considered such an alteration (91 per cent).

The cautionary note about alcohol is echoed at Bath by Bottomley: "I know student life is typically a time in which people explore the boundaries of their capacity. Perhaps I show my age by this, but I do discourage the kind of activity that in-

volves drinking the pub dry. "I will probably get hell from the students' union for saying this, but on the basis of the large amount of requests I have for the morning-after Pill, I have just about lost all faith in the rubber industry. However, I am not suggesting there is widespread promiscuity among the students. Sexual relations, and the very real problems they can bring, tend to come earlier now. The problems, of course, occur when they break up. It is easy to say it is just part of life's experience and that university is about more than merely getting a degree, yet inevitably these relationships are often very intense, and their ending a cause of considerable grief."

"Women still use the Pill at much the same rate as they have done in the past. By no means all women want to go on it, but the ones who do are able to have very full discussions with us first about the implications."

During the year Bottomley expects to see nearly half of the 3,500 students. High on the list of complaints come respiratory diseases and skin infections. Yet, ironically, it is the university's rude health that is at least indirectly responsible for many of its appointments. With an 80 per cent level of sporting participation, it is small wonder that his waiting room is full of fearless young international rugger heroes of the future, freshly injured on the field of play. There is stress, and there are stress fractures. Who is to say that one is more self-inflicted than the other?

Tomorrow
Part 5: Making ends meet. A-Z continues

A-Z HERIOT-WATT TO LIVERPOOL

HERIOT-WATT

Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS (031 448 5111).

Inquiries: Admissions Officer, Location: Seven joint departments of Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh College of Art are housed on the campus at Riccarton on the western outskirts of Edinburgh, in about 400 acres of attractive landscaped and wooded parkland with low-rise modern buildings and a small loch. Two others, still in the historic Grassmarket, will move to Riccarton in 1992.

History: Founded as the Edinburgh School of Arts in 1821, it was one of the first technical institutes in the country. Heriot-Watt received its royal charter in 1966. The name commemorates James Watt, pioneer of steam power, and the education philanthropist, George Heriot.

Undergraduates: 3,740. (Male/Female ratio 2:1)

Major courses: Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Building, Architecture, Accountancy and Finance, Business Organization, Mechanical Engineering, Design, Physics/Optoelectronics, Interpreting and Translating, Computer Science and Architecture. Length of degree course: three years in some subjects, four years Honours, five years "enhanced" degrees in some engineering disciplines.

Special features: Heriot-Watt is a renowned technological institution. The university is one of the few to offer degrees in Interpreting and Translating and in Actuarial Mathematics and is unique in having brewing and distilling degrees.

Research Park: Social life: University residences and accommodation provide places for more than 1,100 students. Good sports facilities on campus. New SU building is scheduled to open on campus in 1990.

Student view: "The campus is very picturesque and has some excellent facilities. The combination of a fascinating and a homey city makes for an exciting place to study."

Famous graduates: Archie Kirkwood, MP.

Open days: September 5-6.

HERIOT-WATT

Hull HUB 7RX (0482 466100).

Inquiries: Admissions Officer, Location: All the academic

buildings are on a 94-acre tree-lined campus two miles outside Hull. The halls of residence and some of the student houses are in Cottingham, an attractive village two miles north-west of the university.

History: Hull was founded in 1928 and was granted its charter in 1954.

Undergraduates: 4,500. (Male/Female ratio 1:1)

Major courses: Law, English, Accounting, Economics, Politics, Social Policy, Modern Languages, Electronics, Chemistry, Among the most popular courses are Drama, Management, Computer Science, Geography and Psychology.

Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: The modern Brynmor Jones Library is excellent, containing more than 750,000 books and plenty of study space. Every student, irrespective of degree, is able to learn a language. Hull has introduced some unusual courses such as Robotics and Communications, Scandinavian Studies, Indian Politics, and European Studies leading to German or French qualifications as well as a BA Science park.

Social life: All first-year students are guaranteed accommodation in one of the residences. The six halls which form the award-winning Laines complex have been described as models of student accommodation. The well-equipped SU in Cottingham organizes entertainment and is the centre for about 150 societies, as well as about 50 sporting clubs. Has a renowned art collection.

Student view: "In the Laines first-year students would probably be expected to share. If you definitely want a single room, it would be wiser to apply for the other halls. The distance from the university is a disadvantage and some feel that the Laines become claustrophobic. However, the Laines has a sociable if sometimes rowdy reputation."

Famous graduates: Sarah Greene, Roy Hattersley, MP, John Prescott, MP.

Open days: Details from the Admissions Office.

KEELE

St David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed (0170 422351).

Inquiries: Deputy Registrar, Location: The smallest university in western Europe, situated on the ancient castle site in market town of Lampeter.

History: Founded in 1822, Lampeter is the oldest degree-awarding institution in England and Wales apart from Oxford and Cambridge. It merged with the University of Wales in 1971.

Undergraduates: 800. (Male/Female ratio 1:1)

Major courses: Archaeology, English, Informatics, History, Geography, Theology and Religious Studies. Popular courses include: Philosophy, Archaeology, Swedish and Ancient History. Length of degree course: three or four years depending on subject.

Special features: Only the humanities are taught here. Students take three subjects in their first year and can choose from an interesting range which includes Swedish, Welsh, Philosophy, Archaeology, Informatics or Islamic Studies. Lampeter operates exchange schemes with Canadian and Swedish universities.

Social life: All first-year students and most second and third-year students are allocated college rooms. The SU operates a bi-lingual policy in this essentially Welsh-speaking area. A close-knit community because of its size and remote setting. The College Arts Hall provides a social life for the Welsh National Opera and there is an active music club.

Student view: "We are a small rural university but we are not 'vipers in the sticks'. We are a very close-knit community. Well developed active Union provides non-academic back-up to student life. Transport to and from the college is not easy to find but don't be put off if you don't have your own transport: entertainment is largely generated within the college, and there is something happening most nights."

Famous graduate: Sue Slipman. Open days: December and March.

LANCASTER

University House, Lancaster LA1 4YW (0524 65201).

Inquiries: Director of Admissions, Location: Attractive 250-acre 1960s campus to the south of Lancaster, set in a beautiful countryside close to the sea and the Lake District.

History: Founded in 1964. Undergraduates: 4,230. (Male/Female ratio 1:1)

Major courses: Biological and Environmental Sciences, English and Management Studies and History. Most popular courses are Management (especially Accounting and Finance and Marketing), Law and Psychology. Length of degree course: three or four years, depending on subject.

Special features: All students take three subjects during their first year, then specialize. The university has a modern and innovative with facilities for students to organize their own studies and to change course if necessary.

Social life: Nearly all first-years live on campus in one of the eight colleges as do a large number of final-year students. Social, recreational and much academic activity centres on the colleges. Sports centre has a swimming pool, 12 squash courts, a dance studio, sauna and solarium.

Student view: "The university has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, set in beautiful surroundings with a good social life if you are prepared to look for it."

Famous graduates: Linda Lewis (TV reporter), Gary Walker, MP.

Open days: Usually in summer.

LEEDS

Leeds LS2 9JT (0532 333993).

Inquiries: Assistant Registrar (Undergraduate Admissions), Location: One of Britain's largest civic universities, Leeds is situated on a 140-acre site just north of the city centre. It consists of traditional Victorian architecture blended with 1960s and 1970s glass and concrete.

History: Founded as the Yorkshire College of Science in 1874, Leeds was granted its charter in 1904.

Undergraduates: 8,863. (Male/Female ratio 5:4)

Main subject areas: Engineering and Applied Science, Physical Science and Mathematics, English, Medicine, Business and Economic Studies. Among the most popular courses are Law, Psychology, and Law. New courses in Chinese and Japanese Studies and English Literature and Theatre Studies. Length of degree course: three to five years, depending on subject.

Special features: The library is one of the biggest university libraries in the country, with about two million books and periodicals and a computerized book circulation system. The university also has a comprehensive computing system with more than 1,000 terminals on campus.

Social life: All first-year students can be accommodated in halls or university on campus, or within three and a half miles of it. Private accommodation in Leeds or Headingley is relatively easy to find. The SU organizes a wide range of entertainment and welfare services — for example, a free minibus service for women students. There is also a new

sports hall with accommodation for 1,500 spectators. Location: One mile south of the city centre, the compact campus is adjacent to parkland. The original building is Georgian but the university also has modern architecture.

History: The university was founded in 1918 and first admitted students in 1921. It received its charter in 1957.

Undergraduates: 4,055. (Male/Female ratio 5:5)

Major courses: Law, Medicine, Economics, Engineering, Biological Sciences. The four most popular courses are Psychology, Geography, History of Art, Law. Length of degree course: three to four years, five for Medicine.

Special features: Leicester offers an impressive range of subjects and many courses are broad based in the first year. The university has a comprehensive library with a good loans system.

Social life: All new entrants are offered university accommodation in halls of residence or student houses. The halls are situated in spacious grounds. A pleasant medium-sized university with good sports facilities, a fine athletics track and a strong history of debating. There is a resident chamber music group and an active theatre workshop.

Student view: "Accommodation is fairly plentiful with some 3,000 places in university and a fairly large private sector. However, rents are rising fast. Leicester is a lively city. It has a good shopping centre and many very good restaurants."

Famous graduates: Malcolm Bradbury, J.H. Plumb (historian), C.P. Snow.

Open day: March 17, 1990.

LIVERPOOL

PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX (051 794 3212).

Inquiries: Schools Relations Office, Location: The university lies in the shadow of the Roman Catholic Cathedral and occupies a 100-acre precinct five minutes from the city centre. History: The university was founded in 1881.

Undergraduates: 6,538. (Male/Female ratio 4:3)

Major courses: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Social and Environmental Studies, Accounting and Business Economics, and Combined Honours (Arts) are very popular. Numerous new degree courses include Computer and Micro-electronic Systems, Joint Honours in Law and German, Geography and Computer Science. Length of degree courses: three or four years, five for Dentistry and Medicine.

Special features: The university has an interdisciplinary research Centre for surface science. It also has recently acquired a £350,000 Scanning Auger electron microscope. Science park (with Liverpool Polytechnic).

Social life: All first-years are offered places in one of eight halls of residence on two attractive parkland sites about three miles from the precinct. Six of the halls are mixed, two are single-sex. The SU building houses four dining rooms, a theatre, library and even a hairdresser. Excellent sports facilities and dance studio. The university owns an outdoor activity centre in Snowdonia.

Student view: "It should be noted that Liverpool still offers the widest range of courses outside of Oxford and Cambridge. Although the social life has a bad reputation, there is endless activity in the city."

Famous graduates: Phil Redmond (Grange Hill), Phil Russell, Jon Snow.

Open days: May each year or by arrangement.

Compiled by Sara Driver

DURHAM UNIVERSITY: Contrary to the details given yesterday, Trevelyan College is to admit men on equal terms from 1990 (applications for mixed admission begin this year) and only one college, St Mary's, will remain for women only, taking about 100 undergraduates a year.

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HEALTH

Fit to cope with stress?

Regular exercise may be able to do as much for the mind as for the body, reports Barbara Lamb

Hardly a day passes without the media extolling the latest exercise fad, from aerobics to callenetics, enticing us with the promise of a trimmer, tauter shape along with the advantages of staying healthy and living longer. But while the physical benefits of regular exercise have been well documented — lower blood pressure, less body fat and a healthier heart — the positive effects of exercise on our mental state have had comparatively little evidence to back them up. For while you are burning up the calories and working off the fat you could also be helping to ward off depression.

According to Hannah Steinberg, a professor of psychopharmacology, consistent, sensible exercise could do as much for the mind as for the body. The answer may lie in our endorphins. It has been known for some time that the brain can manufacture endorphins (endogenous morphines), its own natural opiate-like substances, but their significance seems to have been overlooked. Steinberg and her colleagues at University College London have recently carried out further scientific research which reveals that stimulating the body through exercise helps release the endorphins and can lift your mood, giving you feelings of well-being similar to those of helpful, psycho-active drugs. "If you optimize your physical behaviour you stand a very good chance of also optimizing your mental state," she says.

Psychopharmacology is a comparatively new science, and is concerned with the effect of drugs which act on the brain. When Steinberg is overwhelmed by pressure of work, she moves energetically to music until the tension seems to ebb away. The exercise does not have to be vigorous to produce the desired effect, she emphasizes, and she warns against over-exercising.

A recent study by Steinberg's research group has convinced her that even the emotionally stable can withstand more stress if they exercise regularly. The Steinberg research team carried out tests to explore the link between physical exercise, its psychological benefits and endorphins. Men and women were divided into three groups



according to their aerobic fitness, and subjected to a laboratory stress test. The tests revealed that not only do the physically fit react to stress less strongly, but their heart rate goes more slowly and recovers more quickly. Men and women reacted differently in men the changes were predominantly physical, with blood pressure rising more dramatically in the unfit, whereas with unfit women it was anxiety that increased.

Steinberg was not surprised that there was a difference between the sexes. "It suggested that men were more protected from risk of physical illness such as heart disease when they exercise, whereas physically fit women are more able to cope with mental stress and therefore get more psychological benefit."

That exercise can improve the

mood of patients in psychiatric hospitals has also been established. Psychiatrist Dr Desmond Kelly, president of the International Stress Control Society and medical director of the Priory, a private psychiatric hospital in Roehampton, south-west London, believes very much in controlled exercise for mental health. It has been an intrinsic part of the hospital regime for a number of years, in many cases allowing patients to cut down on drugs once they are past the acute phase. Exercise and swimming sessions have proved so successful in helping patients in their recovery that the hospital is now building a full-scale gymnasium, which will be completed this summer.

Dr David Veale, of the Maudsley Hospital, London, who has also extensively researched the psycho-

logical benefits of exercise, is more cautious and does not believe it should be regarded as a panacea. Last year he carried out his own study on exercise as a treatment for depression, and concluded that aerobic exercise works as well as drug therapy, but only on mild to moderate cases. He talks of the temporary elevation in mood: "Many will testify that they feel less anxious immediately after exercise, but the long-term benefits are harder to evaluate."

Steinberg's belief in the psychological effects of physical exercise was triggered a few years ago when her research assistant noticed that her depression lifted once she started to exercise regularly. "When it was first discovered that the nervous system can produce substances which are similar to materi-

als derived from opium poppies, it was hailed as a breakthrough," Steinberg says. "Since then an enormous amount of research has been carried out to find out more about the highly complex nature and functions of endorphins."

Pain relief is to some extent produced by the body itself. She cites the example of "battle wounds", which are supposed to leave you free of pain until the battle is over. However, over-enthusiastic exercising, Steinberg says, can lead to addiction and the danger of becoming equally depressed when deprived of the endorphins. A six-week experiment with 40 runners showed that "runner's high", often criticized as a myth, is real. Steinberg and her team divided runners into two groups: the control group continued normal running and the other stopped all exercise over a two-week period. Weekly assessments showed that the deprived runners experienced more anxiety, depression and health problems. Once running was resumed withdrawal symptoms quickly disappeared. It was also noticed that the pain threshold seemed to rise after strenuous exercise.

Steinberg believes exercise is also useful in helping people come off addictive drugs, lessening withdrawal symptoms. "Clinics will put people on a complete detoxification programme, handing out substitute drugs which are a bit weaker," she thinks that exercise via endorphins could help replace these drugs and prevent relapse, one of the most common failures of detoxification.

At an international Sport Health psychology and exercise symposium held in Buckinghamshire last October, Nanette Mutrie of the University of Glasgow reported that she found mildly depressed women who exercised aerobically over two weeks recovered faster than those still awaiting treatment. She believes, however, that GPs need more back-up in encouraging their patients to take up exercise. Out of eight GPs involved in her study on the benefits of exercise for depressed people, only one gave patients information about exercise.

Kelly points out that the exercise does not have to be painful to produce beneficial effects. "Some of our patients feel very uncomfortable in the water, so we would never encourage them to swim." He adds: "There is no doubt that for many people aerobics burns up the adrenaline which is produced by too much stress and also helps counteract the damaging effects of anger, which is often a part of depression. I sometimes suggest an exercise bike if they are feeling angry — within five or 10 minutes the anger subsides and they feel a lot better."

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Cold comfort



The war-time government in Britain had no doubt that colds affected efficiency. Posters bearing the slogan "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases" encouraged workers to use handkerchiefs to keep their germs to themselves and the war effort unhindered. This week it has been reported that air traffic controllers all over Europe have taken time off work due to an epidemic of summer colds. Is their action justified?

Loss of efficiency with a cold has never previously been proved, let alone evaluated, and until research work last year, it was even uncertain what aspects of having a cold reduced work performance. Measuring the effect of a cold is difficult in normal life, as it is impossible to predict when someone will catch one, and when they do, pinpoint which of some 200 viruses is responsible. Last year Dr Andrew Smith of the University of Sussex used volunteers from the Common Cold Unit in Salisbury, who can be artificially infected by a known virus, to analyse the effects of colds and influenza on people's ability to perform various tasks.

Dr Smith's research work has recently been published in the journal *Occupational Medicine*. He has shown that colds only have an effect on some aspects of a patient's performance, but that these changes occur during the incubation period before the cold has made its presence felt and persist for up to a week after the symptoms have gone. Patients who have been infected with the virus, but who have not developed any symptoms and have, as it is said, "fought it off", showed similar, but lesser changes in performance to those who developed the characteristic runny eyes and nose. The loss of performance is patchy and is therefore of variable importance, depending on the job being undertaken.

To employ a sniffing barrister may be perfectly reasonable, as Dr Smith showed that logical thought is not impaired by either flu or a cold; nor would the barrister's memory for events learnt before he caught his cold be affected. The only effect the cold might have on his conduct of a case is that he may have short-term memory difficulties and problems with recalling the details of a complex story, but, surprisingly, if he had learnt a brief when he had a cold he would be more likely to remember it for longer. However, a cold of similar severity in a chauffeur could lead to disasters, as the skills needed to drive a car safely are vulnerable to both colds and flu. The degree of this vulnerability is surprising: in tests devised to evaluate it, a cold was found to be between five and 10 times more significant than acceptable blood levels of alcohol.

If somebody is stricken with a cold and has to work there is hope. Another trial at the Common Cold Unit has shown that the loss of performance can be alleviated by taking zinc tablets.

Taking the test



Patients who have been attending the ante-natal clinics at the Westminster and St Stephen's Hospitals in London over the past two years have been offered the chance to have their blood tested for HIV, the virus which causes Aids. Only two thirds of the 2,288 women accepted this offer, although a questionnaire has shown that an overwhelming majority of patients are in favour of this facility being available. The results of the testing, published in the *General Practitioner*, were in some respects encouraging: only six of the 1,730 women tested were unknowingly HIV positive, four came from high risk groups (one was an intravenous drug user and three were from Africa). But the surprising statistic was that neither of the two United Kingdom-born women who were found to be HIV positive was in any high risk group, nor had either taken part in forms of sexual or other behaviour usually considered risky.

If screening had been only offered to high risk groups, these two HIV positive women would have been unaware of their condition and would have therefore been unable to make a considered judgement on the best way to deal with their pregnancy and their future sex life. The number of women who were HIV positive was considerably lower than would have been expected from earlier anonymous testing carried out in two East End London hospitals. This discrepancy may, in part, be due to the large numbers of women, one third, who refused testing, as in some of these cases it was suspected that the reason for the refusal may well have been that they thought there was a chance that they were HIV positive, and worked on the principal that ignorance is bliss. The six women whose HIV infection was diagnosed have all coped with and benefited from the knowledge.

Cancer cure?

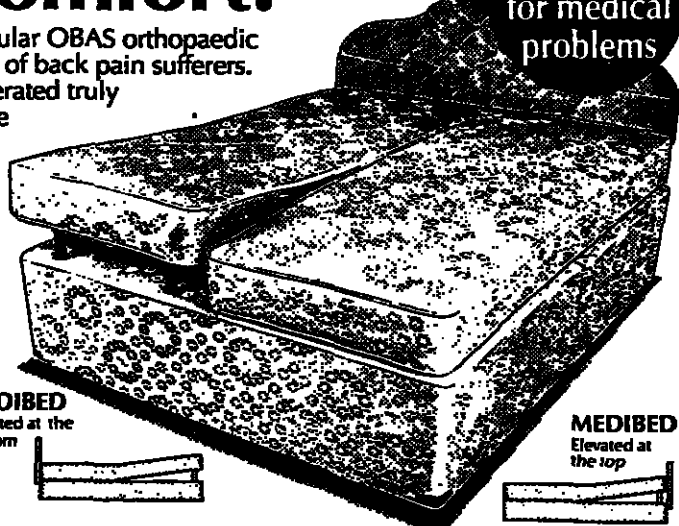


Women who were worried last month when headlines announced that there was a possibility of a very slightly increased chance of developing breast cancer if they had taken the old, now outdated, forms of oral contraceptives when young, should be reassured by the latest research in the United States and Britain. Doctors who attended a conference in Virginia were told that there was strong laboratory evidence that one of the new hormone-containing gestodene, the progesterone component of two low-dose oestrogen/progesterone pills, marketed as Femodene and Minulet, may in time reduce the number of cases of breast cancer. The initial observations have been so encouraging that research workers were talking of the possibility that these pills may in future not only be prescribed for contraception but to prevent, or even treat, cancer of the breast.

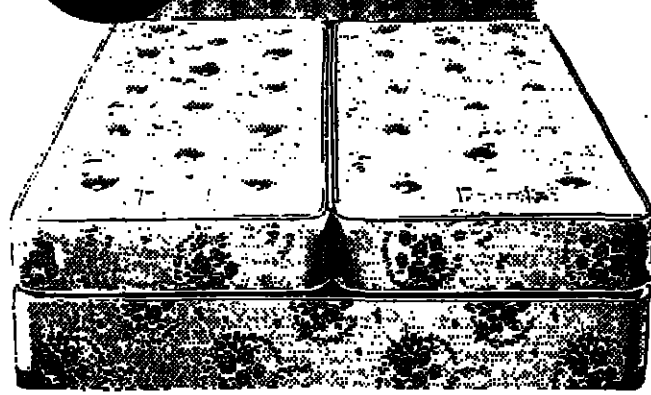
It is thought that gestodene, like the drug tamoxifen (an anti-cancer drug), may stimulate the production of TGF-beta (transforming growth factor beta), which suppresses cancer cells. Dr Michael Sporn, an American working on the project, is keen that human trials of gestodene as a cancer preventative should start without delay, so that it may be seen if these laboratory results can be reproduced in clinical medicine.

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School life



HEATHER BRIGSTOCKE

We hear a lot about stress, but I think people can become too preoccupied with it. Life has always been stressful — I think we're all a bit like swans: calm on top and paddling madly underneath. For me, being a headmistress was the antidote to stress. I took over as high mistress of St Paul's Girls School in London six months after my husband died in an air crash. It took me entirely out of myself. I've been so grateful to have so many things to think about, and so many problems to solve.

Maybe there will be more stresses when I retire at the end of this term and move to the flat I've just bought in South Kensington. Although I love it here, I'm looking forward to that, and to becoming a member of the Health Education Authority.

I'll be 60 in September, but I don't think I care so much about what I look like as how I feel. My father was a great health nut, and I disappointed him because I wasn't good at anything like that. In fact I was positively put off exercise at school because my father was forever going on about it. Subsequently, after having children — I had four, relatively close together, now aged 27 to 36 — I realized that I enjoyed swimming. I also enjoy playing tennis and bicycling.

I love to cook, although I went to the kind of school where you either did Latin or

cooking, and I did Latin. (I think it's terrible that home economics is so much under threat in the national curriculum because this is the one way that girls get educated about food hygiene.) I breakfast on grapefruit juice and hot water — why, I don't know. I don't take sugar in coffee or tea, but I love chocolate. I don't like people being obsessed with health, either about weight or organically grown food and so on, but I hardly ever eat red meat. I'm sure I would be quite happy as a vegetarian.

At one time, I am ashamed to say, I smoked cigarettes — mainly because when I went out to formal dinners I got so annoyed that the men were offered big cigars and I wasn't. Very occasionally I have a Turkish cigarette after dinner. But the rise in smoking among teenage girls is disturbing. I think they see it as a source of comfort.

One of the things that worries me is the pattern of family life today. People don't eat as a family enough, and I think it's actually health-giving for children to eat regularly with their parents. It sounds clichéd and trite, but people don't emphasize enough the importance of good food, exercise and sleep — the things my parents went on and on about and, I suppose, rather turned me off because they did.

Interview by Victoria McKee

HAY FEVER?

The natural remedy

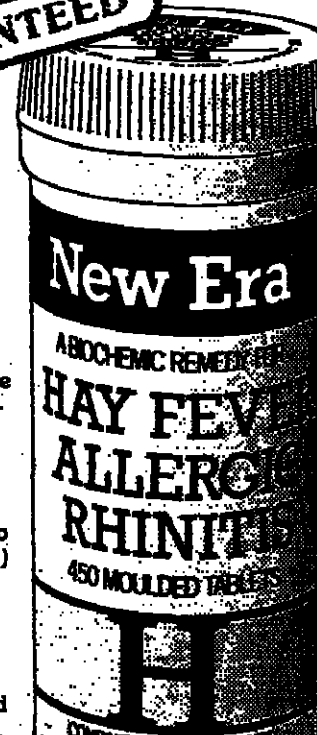
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James Wood on a poet's wrestle with words and meanings in the ring with time, sex, and poetry

art of remaining motionless amid the agitation of the whirlwind, to learn to remain still and to be as transparent as this fixed light amid the frantic branches — this may be a programme for life." But then he retreats from it, for the very notion of fixity is chimerical: "Fixity is always momentary. It is an equilibrium, at once precarious and perfect, that lasts the space of an instant... wisdom lies neither in fixity nor in change, but in the dialectic between the two."

Wandering through Galta, star-

have said "not our own instantly." But let us be more exact. For, like most conventionally "Romantic" men, Keats was a man of letters, and that is what he was reading Wordsworth while he wrote this book; and it is indeed full of Wordsworthian visionary moments, moments at once empty (the focus is wide, and you can think anything) and full (everything is at its most intense). In his striving for a place beyond himself, Paz is not so far from Keats's famous definition of the poetical character as "not itself – it has no self – it is everything and nothing", or even Larkin's glum recasting of Keats: "Nothing, like something, happens anywhere." But, as always with Paz, unlike the earnestly happy Wordsworth or the earnestly gloomy Keats, there is a certain jokiness about this literary ninkama, a kind of speculation not because it leads anywhere (as, say, with Eliot's tortured patience), but because it is lovely in itself: it is both feast and fester.

In his new collection, *The Masked Fisherman*, George Mackay Brown writes his stories of the northern isles of Scotland with dour brilliance and an extraordinary variety of effects — "The Corn and the Tares", for example, is written from inside the mind of the poet Edwin Muir. Although always aiming for a mythic simplicity and purity, he is, in fact, a highly sophisticated and knowing master of the form.

THE

I find the chapters on the desert campaigns particularly interesting not only on personal grounds but because, while covering operations so fully, Dr Bennett concentrates on the terrible difficulties that restricted German supplies. Guided by Ultra, we were able to more than decimate sea traffic between Italy and Africa. This impinges on strategy. Many amateur and professional strategists have argued that the Germans would have needed to make only a tiny diversion of

The most valuable aspect of March's book is his case studies of negotiations, which occupy about half the book, and illustrate far better than any theorizing both the difficulties and the approaches that work when dealing with them.

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Writing about fellow tradespersons in the news business I would normally regard as incoherent and self-indulgent. But I make an exception for the BBC's Kate Adie, whose coverage of events in Peking is exemplary and who has been roughed up in the media. Before she left for China, she provided some telling insights in a rare interview. Macho heroics, she says, are no part of her job; brave reporters are usually dead ones.

"It's not my job to go into the fighting, to go into the front line and say, 'Gosh, here I am. I'll hide under the table with everyone else. I'll be first there, given half the chance.'" But, says Adie, the most important kind of reporting is going and seeing for yourself. "Get there as fast as you can, see as much as you can. Any report is not entirely objective, but second-hand reports are always distorted."

She particularly admires colleagues who can continue to function through illness or pain. "Believe me, there's nothing worse than getting up in the morning and somebody's having a gun battle outside, and you've got a headache." I trust the clear-headed Miss Adie is well this morning.

Those chemists Fleischmann and Pons who claimed to have produced nuclear fusion in a fivepenny test tube are swimming against a rising tide of scepticism and doubt from their scientific peers. I hear from the United States that a last straw of bad luck has struck them; an over-cautious racoon crawled into the transformer at their University of Utah laboratory, and in electrocuting itself cut off the power supply, thus erasing some of the vital computer data with which the pair intended to defend their case. The whole business, as one British scientist has observed, appears to have been a bit of a Fleisch in the Pons.

Coming up for sale at Bloomsbury Book Auctions are six letters from George Eliot in which she is thoroughly rude about some of her fellow-contributors to the *Westminster Review*. Of others' views of her own work she remarks: "No expression of satisfaction is so agreeable as that which is conveyed in the elegance of choques." How true, Mary Ann, how true.

Senior brains at the BBC are glowing like the dial of an old valve wireless with the effort of dreaming up a name for the Corporation's new headquarters currently taking hideous shape at White City in west London and already awarded the Order of the Royal Caruncle. Reith Towers has been limply suggested, but that seems an insult to the man whose original Broadcasting House is a fine work. In view of its location, White Elephant has also been mooted by irreverent minions who will have to work in it.

Readers of these inches, who are famed for their imagination, can, I am sure, come up with something more inspired.

Things in the National Health Service are worse than I thought. Humphrey Ward, consultant gynaecologist at University College Hospital in London, has been asking for some time if he might have a bleeper to summon him from the uttermost recesses of that rambling infirmary to attend urgent cases. Bloomsbury health authority has told him, however, that he cannot have one as there is no money left for beepers this year. What especially annoys Ward is not that all the other consultants have one, but that even his head cleaner has. An odd scale of priorities.

A final word on the leading item to occupy this space yesterday. Happily Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, has recanted the angry words he wrote to *The Times* that he would not return to Israel at present. Kollek says now that his reaction was based on an exaggerated version of the interview which appeared in an Israeli newspaper. "No one," Kollek has telegraphed Baranboim, "was happier than I to learn you are not a 'conditional' Israeli." Well, that clears that up.

At the northern end of Regent Street, every afternoon come rain or come shine, there stands a serious man in a dark mackintosh holding a notice bearing the words: "The End of the World is Nigh." He has been there for so many years that to us regulars the thrust of his message has lost immediacy. I have toyed with engaging him in conversation, but was never sure how to start. "Nice day" would be inappropriate.

The prediction of doom has ever been popular; many years ago astute politicians realized the error of promising good times just around the corner, preferring to herald mid-term disaster; if disaster occurred, people remembered and gave him credit for his prescience. If things went on as before, he was able to claim that "but for my timely warning..."

Suppose the world began to end

It was a good time to be in Holland. A Rotterdam girl had just won the Miss Universe title, two Dutch players had netted four goals for AC Milan and the government had fallen over the issue of taxing polluters. In Naples, they would have been tooting their horns and shouting from the rooftops, but in this town, on the border with Belgium, it was merely business as usual.

"It's difficult to find a Dutch chauvinist," admits Jan Kan, assistant to the Christian Democratic mayor. As difficult, one might add, as finding the local candidate for the European Parliament. Holland, and especially Roosendaal, where farmers sometimes start ploughing on Dutch soil and turn their tractors in Belgium, has an almost complete European identity. West Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg are a short drive away. Passport control is minimal.

In this model of modern Europe, the Euro Parliament goes virtually no decisive role. There is neither an exaggerated sense of nationhood nor of European community. Europe is simply background noise, always there, never in dispute. As elsewhere, the European elections are a means of measuring the strength of national parties.

There is only one European

candidate living in Roosendaal. Number 29 on the Christian Democratic list. She does not answer her door at St Josephstraat; the school where she teaches has not seen her for a week; her phone rings on and on. There are no posters, no meetings: this is a subterranean election campaign.

Yet Europe 1992 presents serious problems for a border community. Its economic existence is predicated on the frontier. Roosendaal, like Calais, is on the TGV high-speed railway line. The train is becoming a symbol of the new Europe, since it defines the winners — those plugged into the main communications network, Cologne-Brussels-Channel Tunnel — and the losers on the distant southern fringes of the Community. It was the opening of the Antwerp-Breda railway line in 1854 that first transformed Roosendaal from a market town into a strategically placed, light industrial centre.

Jan Kan and the town hall officials see the possibility of local industry being propelled into the multinational big time.

VISIONS OF EUROPE

Philips, the electronics giant, already dominates the local economy, but there are many small companies, each making its profit by exporting quickly across small countries.

The new European market will be of greatest benefit to the flexible high-tech rather than the smokescreen industries. Roosendaal is already making the adjustment. Its traditional industries of cigars (fine, fat, foul-smelling ones), leather and glass have withered away, and instead the talk is of a science park and a high-tech eye centre. Yet that involves some social changes that are not altogether acceptable

Roger Boyes, in the Dutch town of Roosendaal, finds concern for personal liberty

to the Dutch social conscience. Migrant workers from Turkey and Morocco were the order of the day in southern Holland during the 1970s; now the need is for highly educated specialists, and the well-settled but under-qualified migrants form a substantial portion of the 10 per cent unemployment in Roosendaal. Generous repatriation schemes have been introduced but few take advantage of them.

The children speak flawless Dutch, the social benefits are generous. But complex political issues are in play. The influx of cheap labour from the poorer Community countries — Portugal, Greece and Spain — will squeeze the migrant population, and social resources.

Holland has a long multi-racial tradition. It can cope with these problems. But what if the Community tries to align Holland to a much tougher immigration and passport policy? That is going to burden Calvinist souls.

The problems have already begun. The insistence that all European Community members carry a passport touches a nerve in Holland. For many of the middle-aged and elderly it is an echo of the Nazi years when German guards would bark out: *Personalausweis!* This is an important civil rights issue in Holland. A 1927 Supreme Court ruling allowed the Dutch to refuse all personal details if questioned by police in the street; this was born out of a conviction that all citizens should be presumed innocent. To ask for documents was a mark of official distrust and as such legally unacceptable.

Now EC rules will insist on the possession of a passport, and the Dutch are unhappy. These are the kind of rights they would like

to see defended by Strasbourg. Instead, as one Roosendaal businessman expressed it, the Euro candidates behave either like municipal councillors or as European visionaries accountable to nobody.

The passport issue touches on the whole conundrum of internal security. There is an expanding racket in refugee smuggling, specially into Germany, where the rules of asylum can be easily bent by those seeking work in Western Europe. Last year 1,600 people were smuggled over the Dutch-German border near Venlo. Another 500 came through the Belgian forests, hundreds more across the Franco-German frontier.

A typical fiddle: Zairean students in Brussels cross the almost open frontier between Belgium and West Germany, use a false passport to claim asylum in Germany, pick up the automatic social benefits worth about £300 and return home. The Germans naturally want their neighbours to have tighter controls on non-Europeans, and by the same token make Community citizens more clearly identifiable. To the Dutch, this sours the spirit of 1992; Europe, they suspect, is on the way to becoming a more closed, regulated society than they enjoy today.

Bernard Levin urges the Nazi-hunters to call it a day

Evil too old for hounding

Will the past never lie down? The news of the capture in France of Paul Touvier, one of the most evil war criminals still living, darkens the sun. Touvier was the Nazis' chief indigenous officer in Lyons; he ran the local Milice, the French paramilitary unit, and must be second only to Klaus Barbie in the number of people he murdered or sent to their death in the gas chambers. He had been in hiding for 45 years.

Presumably there will now be a trial like Barbie's, doubtless with the same result — the rattling of skeletons in the cupboards of surviving and unpunished (indeed frequently honoured) collaborators, the terrible details of evil, a life sentence, another book closed.

What does the life sentence mean? Touvier is 74; so is Barbie. There must be others still living, in a good many countries, protected by sympathizers, in hiding or living openly under assumed names and characters. Very few of them can be younger than those two; most considerably older.

A few months ago I wrote about the release of two Nazi mass murderers who had been imprisoned in the Netherlands (where they organized the slaughter of Jews). They had been incarcerated for 40 years; one was 79, the other 87. In a very few years, they and all their kind will be dead; so, for that matter, will their surviving victims, though the countless victims who did not survive have been dead for decades.

I suppose there is no way in which the Touvier trial can be averted; there is, after all, a difference between exercising clemency for men who have been in prison for more than half a lifetime and leaving at liberty a man who has undergone no punishment (unless, to be sure, remorse has gnawed him all

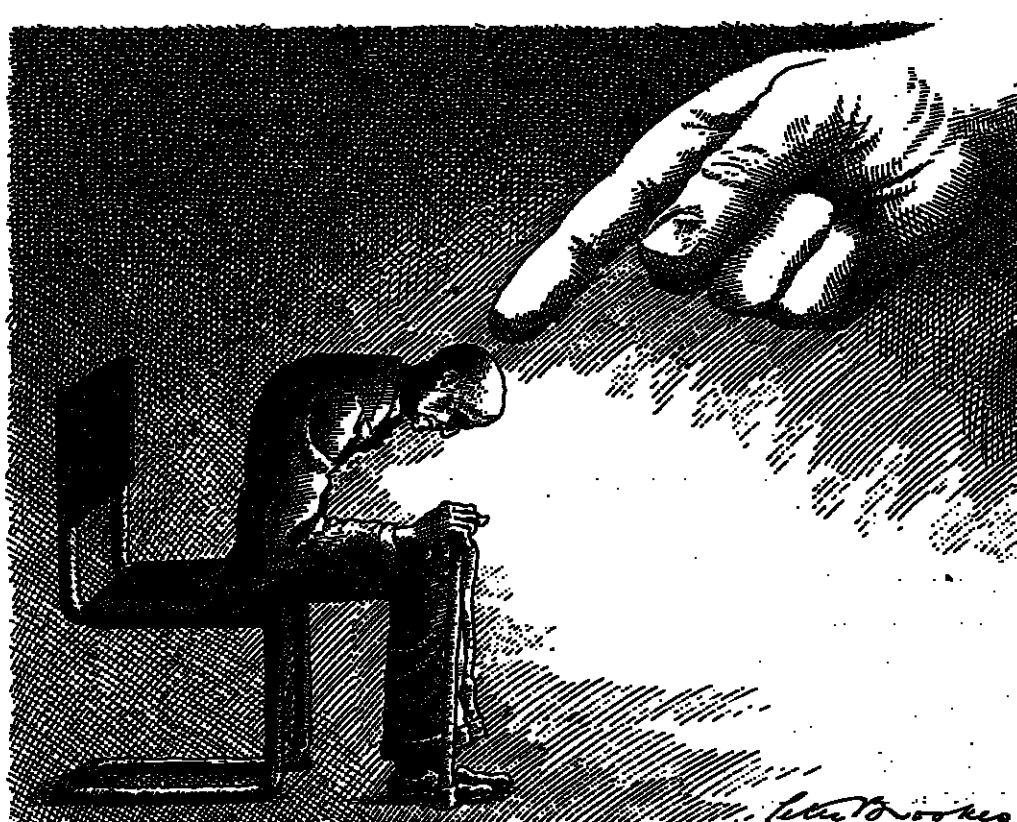
through the years). We can be thankful that in Britain this grappling with ghosts is unnecessary; it is as fruitless as it is repulsive to wonder who would have helped the Nazis had Britain been subjugated, but be sure there would have been enough to round up Jews for the transports.

Still, we don't have to tear the bandages off the wound, and for that alone we stand in a different light when contemplating the agonies of the Nazi-occupied lands and the different agonies involved in reliving the past. For one thing, millions among the younger generations in France, say, will be forced to think about their parents and grandparents, and what they did when Satan ruled the world. That also we have been spared; for this relief, much thanks.

Yet almost at the moment of Touvier's capture there came news in Britain of a bizarre and horrible echo of these tremendous things. For some years now there have been allegations that, at the end of the war, a number of Nazis or Nazi sympathizers, guilty of dreadful crimes against humanity, managed to enter and settle in this country.

No one can know how many such refugees from justice there were; it could hardly have been more than a few hundred. Most are certainly dead; are there perhaps a score left? Even if there are as few as that, there is not much time to find and try them before an altogether different kind of court, run not by men but by eternity, pronounces judgment.

Nevertheless, in the teeth of credulity, it seems that an inquiry, set up some time ago, has led to the proposal that criminal proceedings should be launched against a handful of very old men for deeds they are alleged to have done nearly half a century



ago. That, you may say, is closely parallel to the Barbie and Touvier situations, but you would be wrong. In our law, a man, not being a British citizen, who commits a crime outside Britain, cannot be prosecuted for it here, though he could theoretically be extradited. And it is seriously argued that legislation should be enacted, with retrospective effect, to make possible the arraignment and trial in Britain of such people.

Let us not tilt the seesaw too far; there were men who did things in the Holocaust of such a nature that they deserve to be hunted not just for 50 years but until the end of the world and beyond. If there are among us, whether alien residents or naturalized citizens, some who took

part in such wickedness, they are as damned as they were when they did so. But the question I asked when I wrote about the two Germans finally released from their Dutch prison must be asked again, and this time with much more vehemence: *cul bond?*

Let us leave out considerations of vengeance; those who did not suffer are in no position to condemn those who wish for a condign punishment (an aim in any case quite impossible to realize, since the atrocities to be punished were such that nothing in even the most lurid imagination could be held to even the score). Let us instead concentrate on justice. Britain has no Statute of Limitations; in practice criminals could, and in

theory should, be pursued right to their death beds with the bills for crimes committed no matter how long ago. But that is not all there is to justice, even without adding mercy.

Although we do not limit the time in which crimes may be pursued, we do, and rightly, bear the principle in mind, that is, of not acting against those whose crimes are many decades in the past. There is, of course, a practical problem: where are the witnesses and their young memories, where are the documents and exhibits, where are the juries to be found, at any rate in cases such as these, who can understand the temper of such bygone times? But even that difficulty is not the greatest.

Justice must always have a

reason for its actions. What reason is there here — and such a reason, moreover, as to demand retrospective legislation (that instrument of tyrants) — to get it on its feet?

Deterrence? Retribution? An abstract commitment to balance the books as well as the scales? Such answers are all absurd, and worse than absurd; proceedings in these circumstances would diminish the sufferings of those who died, as the raked embers give out their frozen heat.

It is argued that such trials ensure that the unimaginable reality is not forgotten. Certainly, it must never be. But it is grotesque to imagine that to go through so macabre a ritual, with a few dotards stumbling into the dock and stumbling out again to prison, will somehow bring home, to those who are too young to have lived through it, what that terrible "it" consisted of. I do not believe that more than a very few of those who want these trials to take place are inspired by hatred or vengeance; their motto is a nobler one: *fluit Justitia, non cadunt.*

But I believe that the amount of justice that would emerge from the proposed trials would be far smaller than the harm done by them, if only from the twin dangers of seeing most of the defendants acquitted for want of evidence that has stood the test of so long a time, and of actually creating sympathy for some of them.

I am not making a plea for bygones to be bygones. Nor do I dismiss the strength of the feeling, in those who are moved by it, that no one should escape scot-free after doing such things, however long ago.

All I wish to do is to declare my belief that the universe will not be a whit the better or cleaner for purging itself of a dozen or two criminals with one foot in the grave.

The block vote heads for belated oblivion

Roland Rudd outlines five proposals to make Labour more democratic

Neil Kinnock wants to get rid of the trade union block vote. So do most union leaders. They agree that wielding 90 per cent of the votes at the annual party conference is an affront to representative democracy, but cannot find an acceptable solution.

To help them make up their minds a special sub-committee, commissioned by the party conference last year, has drawn up five options in a consultative paper. The public is understandably baffled by the spectacle of union leaders waving a card that is supposed to represent the unified opinion of all their members. But they could become even more confused if the wrong option is implemented.

The issue will be considered at this year's Brighton conference. The national executive has not yet seen the document and may decide to add a number of sub-options. But the paper is unlikely to be changed significantly.

The block vote began more than 100 years ago as a means of destroying the rising threat of the left. During the post-war period Labour's leadership came to rely on the union barons as a bulwark against the shrill antics of the hard left in the constituency parties.

Kinnock is not about to hand over the reins of power to activists in local constituency parties immediately. Some of them are more democratic after phasing in one-member, one-vote ballots to replace decisions taken by executive committees. But there are still too many controlled by the hard left.

Kinnock hopes that as power shifts from the unions to the constituencies the process of introducing one-member, one-vote will have speeded up. By next year's conference many more constituency parties — the

CLPs — should have democratic structures.

Of the five proposals the most radical is a structure based on "two houses," one representing the party members through constituency parties and the other the unions. Labour officials believe the system would be relatively easy to administer: union votes would be related to their affiliated membership while constituency votes would be based on actual membership.

Union influence would be reduced below the 60 per cent mark and would be diminished further if more people joined the party — providing an incentive for increasing individual membership. But because there would be a mutual veto between the two houses before any policy could become binding, union leaders would retain a substantial degree of control.

Labour's document gives a

warning that if agreement was not reached between the two houses "the party would both appear divided and in some instances run the risk of not having authoritative policy in key areas." This is the option least liked by Kinnock.

Another proposal is borrowed from the existing electoral college used to elect the leader of the party. This is based on a fixed or moving balance of votes in the constitution. The union vote, for example, would be fixed at 70 per cent of the membership below 300,000 (two-thirds of Labour's actual membership) and reduced by one per cent for every additional 30,000 new members, represented by the constituency parties.

If membership more than doubled, the balance between unions and CLPs would be reduced to a ratio of 60:40. An alternative would be to relate the

voting more closely to the electoral college by giving a proportion of the votes to the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Two other ways of reforming the block vote are derived from formulas based on financial contributions. Labour has always had to rely on the financial and organizational help of the unions. The first attempt by the system in the 1920s was dismissed by the leadership who pointed out that the unions provided up to 95 per cent of the funds on the basis that they would have the lion's share of voting rights.

Thus the two proposals based on financial contributions aim to increase the power of the constituencies relative to the amount of money they contribute to party funds. If the party's mass membership drive is a success the share of the CLPs would con-

tinue to rise at the expense of the unions.

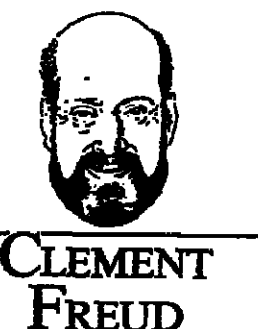
A variation of this proposal would distribute conference votes on the amount of funds paid to the party centrally.

Some unions are still suspicious of change and will back the final option of sticking with the status quo. But the prevailing mood among union leaders accepts the need to redress the balance in favour of individual members.

Whichever method is finally agreed upon it is now certain that the party conference will vote in favour of the principle of change. It will then radically reform the block vote in 1990. It may even eliminate it the following year.

Whether this will be enough to satisfy Labour's critics before the next general election remains to be seen. What is not in doubt is the determination of today's union leaders to bring an end to a system which has turned out to be deeply unpopular with the electorate.

Squandering the end of time



CLEMENT FREUD

platform not to say "Jones is the winner, long live Jones, here is the full result." That wouldn't be our way. He announces that he is Algernon Franklin Golightly, the chief returning officer for the Euro district of wherever and solemnly declares (presumably to pre-empt losers from saying "you're joking") that the votes cast were as follows.

They took this runcible procedure from the Miss World contest where it is done to maintain interest, to stop viewers switching to *Beverly Hillsbillies*, also to place the second, third and fourth place contestants a moment of glory before they are banished to the oyster light of obscurity. No need

for that, for an MEP becomes as obscure as the candidates who failed to win.

It is not only television networks and electoral returning officers who deal in time wasting. Yesterday's specialist racing papers published many advertisements urging punters to seek the expert advice of this and that guru. Ring an 0898 number for the winners. Nothing simpler. (Cost 25p cheap rate, 38p prime rate.) Hurry — presumably before the cheap rate comes in. Be with the clever money.

38p is not a large sum. I rang. At the end of the first minute I had been thanked for ringing — which was really appreciated.

"We are grateful, we are always just at the end of a telephone line. No sweat. Call us often. The Derby at Epsom at 3.45 has the smallest field for many years: only 12 horses going to post, nevertheless, waffle, waffle, waffle."

By the time I had spent £1.90 I learnt about which jockeys had been successful, how often, how recently. I recall Harwood, Hera, Cecil, Caubert, Eddery, Cochran, Roberts, recent rain, good to firm, Tattenham Corner. There had been no mention of a horse, just clicks to indicate the relentless accumulation of 38p units centering on to my telephone bill.

Is the service good? Their advice sound? I doubt anyone has had the patience — or the money — to hang on and find out.

Had my column appeared yesterday, I would have suggested a bet on Terimon — to win.



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The Hong Kong Crisis

DUTY AND HONOUR

Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, arrives in London today. He is likely to press both for immediate moves to greater democracy in the British colony and for recognition of its citizens' right to special treatment under British immigration law.

Sir David's duty requires him to plead hard for those who are anxious and disillusioned by what they see as Britain's readiness to abandon them. The Prime Minister's duty is to respond with generosity and imagination.

In 1982 the British Government began negotiations with China over the future of Hong Kong with the avowed aim of looking after its people's interests. The Sino-British Agreement of 1984 not only provided for the reversion to Chinese sovereignty of land held by Britain under a lease which expires in 1997; it agreed to cede to China, in that year, territory which, under the 1842 Treaty of Nanking and the 1860 Convention of Peking, were British in perpetuity — Hong Kong Island, the southern part of the Kowloon Peninsula which faces it, and Stonecutter's Island.

The arguments favouring negotiation were threefold. The first was that the whole of Hong Kong was physically dependent on good relations with China; and China, with some justification, refused to recognize what it called the "unequal treaties" of the Opium War years.

The second was that an orderly process of transfer would maintain confidence in Hong Kong among investors and its 5.6 million inhabitants. Negotiations would enable Britain to build in safeguards for civil and political rights, and for the maintenance of Hong Kong's free market system.

Finally, the time was felt to be ripe: China had emerged from the years of Maoist misrule firmly resolved to modernize its economy and to work with the international community. It could be trusted to negotiate in good faith and to respect legally binding commitments.

The first of these arguments, based on such physical facts as Hong Kong's dependence on "mainland" water supplies, may retain some practical force, although Hong Kong's people, as colonial subjects, should under international law and the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have the right to exercise political self-determination.

The other two are today in tatters. China's rulers have again displayed their contempt for human life, for their own undertakings solemnly given, for the rule of law, and for democratic freedoms. They have trampled on the United Nations covenants on human rights which it is the British Government's pride to have written into Article XIII of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Britain is thus inescapably confronted by its obligations towards Hong Kong's people. Even before the Peking massacres, many were understandably nervous about their prospects under Chinese sovereignty. Britain must plan, now, for their effective protection.

The 1984 Sino-British agreement sought to build in assurances that Hong Kong's "previous capitalist system and life-style" would be preserved, at least for 50 years. The British and Hong Kong Governments must now act to reinforce those assurances on two fronts: the speedy establishment of democratic institutions in Hong Kong; and recognition of the rights of Hong Kong's 3.25 million British citizens to abide in Britain.

Peking committed itself under the 1984 agreement to give Hong Kong the status of a Special Administrative Region with considerable autonomy, governed under an elective process of unspecified type. Peking has since then used its influence, with British diplomats and with the conservative majority on the Basic Law drafting committee of Hong Kong and mainland China which it appointed, to block progress towards a constitutional democracy guaranteed by direct elections. Britain has argued, unconvincingly, that Hong Kong's people was divided in its support for democratic institutions.

The millions who demonstrated in Hong Kong in support of China's students' democracy have demolished that argument. There is no realistic prospect that China will respect its policy of "one country, two systems" unless the other "system" is in place before 1997.

Yesterday the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe indicated that they would review the present slow timetable for limited elections. The Hong Kong Government should abandon its complex and indirect "consultations" on the draft Basic Law (which provides

no credible democratic guarantees). It should take the demonstrations as a convincing expression of the desire of Hong Kong's people for a system of elective democracy. It should act promptly to put one in place.

As a psychological barrier to tyranny, democratic institutions are important. But they would not alter the fact that Hong Kong after 1997 will be ultimately subject to China's National People's Congress. There can be no confidence that China will respect its rights under law any more than it has those of its citizens. It must be anticipated that the People's Liberation Army might in some future crisis after 1997 visit on Hong Kong the brutality meted out in Tibet and now in Peking.

Hong Kong's people, for more than a hundred years until 1948, had the same common law rights as British subjects. Until 1962, they had full rights to settle in the United Kingdom. Since then, in a succession of laws designed to restrict Commonwealth immigration in general, these have been removed. They should be restored.

The Home Office has so far granted only the narrowest exceptions to Hong Kong people under the 1983 Immigration Act. It has accepted only eight out of 499 applications from servants of the Crown, and 51 from ex-servicemen.

Greater flexibility towards people in such "special categories" is no longer adequate. Nor is Mrs Thatcher's indication, yesterday, that "very influential people and people with particular skills" might be offered the safety net of right to settle here. Both would now be merely divisive; and immigration rules already permit exceptions to those with a minimum of £150,000 in the bank.

The proper precedent is the special treatment accorded the East African Asians who were British passport holders under the 1968 Immigration Act which restricted the rights to settle here of Commonwealth and Dependent Territory citizens. They were admitted under a quota system, which stands today at an annual 5,000 heads of household.

The Prime Minister points to the "enormity" of the prospect that 3.25 million Hong Kong people would flood into Britain, arguing that in the whole postwar period this country has accommodated only half that number of immigrants. That evades the issue of Britain's moral responsibility, should catastrophe strike — a responsibility we would also be under overwhelming international pressure to meet.

It brushes aside the view of the Hong Kong Government itself that exodus on such a scale is highly improbable. Many of Hong Kong's people arrived as refugees from China. But Hong Kong's prosperity is built on their efforts to create new lives from nothing. Having succeeded, they are bound to Hong Kong by the strongest of economic, social and family ties.

Moreover, by no means all of those who left Hong Kong would stay in Britain permanently. Some would, as they are already doing in large numbers, settle in Canada, the US or Australia; others, as they would have the right to do after 1992, would go elsewhere in the European Community.

The course which would meet Britain's obligations and safeguard against a mass exodus would be to restore the right of abode to all 3.25 million, but to operate, as of this year, an annual quota system. Half the places reserved for East African Asians this year have not been taken up; they should be immediately reallocated, as a first confidence-building step, to Hong Kong's people.

Britain should make clear the special plight of Hong Kong. Every year, 46,000 Commonwealth immigrants settle here who have not been driven from their countries in fear of life and liberty. These numbers could be restricted to make room for Hong Kong's British subjects. Procedures for admitting Hong Kong's British citizens should be put in place now, in an orderly way, not cobbled together in emergency.

Convulsions in Chinese history have often been associated with the most appalling massacres. Britain could not merely "deplore" blood flowing along Kowloon's Nathan Road.

The Government is justified in doing everything in its power to avert catastrophe in Hong Kong. If disaster strikes, due to circumstances beyond Britain's control, the consequent obligations are unavoidable. No policy which fails to accept that can today be deemed consonant with British honour.

Science and the State: a US view

From Professor Emeritus Franco Modigliani and others
Sir, We the undersigned Nobel laureates are writing to express our dismay at the shamefully negligent manner in which British academics have been treated for many years, by what is in effect their sole employer, the State. We speak for a chorus of American scholars and scientists.

In some ways, universities here and elsewhere who compete with Britain for high quality academics stand to gain from the reduced attractiveness of an academic career in Britain. But in another sense we lose, for depriving British universities of staff, material resources and a suitable environment does not damage merely the economic prosperity of your country, if indirectly, it also lowers the status of education and learning that characterizes a civilized and creative society.

In the past, Britain in general and its higher education system in particular have set an example to the world in this respect. The attack on this system and the philistine message that your Government's treatment of education and research conveys must be a source of profound regret to scholars and friends of your country throughout the world.

A critical cost-benefit analysis, we believe, will call for more adequate support to education and investment in human capital. Sincerely,
FRANCO MODIGLIANI,
PAUL A. SAMUELSON,
ROBERT H. SOLOW,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Alfred P. Sloan School of Management,
50 Memorial Drive,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts 02139, USA.

From Mr J. R. Mitham
Sir, Mr Belsey (June 2) obviously has not studied agriculture or climatology.
Large-scale haymaking requires two factors: long spells of settled weather and, even with today's level of mechanisation, a good supply of agricultural labour. Both of these are far more evident in France, and indeed on the Continent generally, than in this country.

Feedlots in the southern states of America also rely heavily on lucerne hay which, due to the consistent climate, is a standard feed product. When quality of hay varies as much as it does in this country farmers take the view that it is far more satisfactory to ensile grass, the process of which is much less reliant on the weather to achieve a uniform product. Correct rationing of nutrient levels can then be achieved with more accuracy. Silage can also be handled in bulk, a distinct advantage.

It should also not be forgotten that until recently the Ministry of Agriculture were paying large capital grants to farmers to encourage investment to produce more silage!
Yours faithfully,
J. R. MITHAM,
Old Place Farm,
East Tisted,
Nr Alton, Hampshire,
June 5.

From Dr R. S. K. Essame
Sir, While I agree with Mr Belsey on the pleasing aspects of haymaking, I think we should remember that in the western half of Britain, baled hay causes farmers' lung. We have the making of silage to thank for the decline in this unpleasant and dangerous condition. I hope we will not return to the days when it was quite common among farmers in the West Country.
Yours sincerely,
R. S. K. ESSAME,
The Surgery, Harpits Road,
Honiton, Devon,
June 5.

From Mrs E. Clinton
Sir, In order to help prevent the "elephant holocaust" (report, June 2) perhaps the National Parks, a Government department in Zimbabwe, could be persuaded to stop the annual culling of elephants and the selling of hunting camp leases in the Zambezi Valley.

Whole families of elephant are culled every year because it is believed that by so doing it conserves the plant ecology of the area.
I am not a hunter but have visited a hunting camp in the Zambezi Valley for five successive years since 1983. Last year there was hardly any game to be seen at all compared with five years ago when many big bull elephants roamed the area.

The hunter to whom the camp belongs has this year bought another hunting area, which has not been hunted for years, if ever. The price: ZW\$300,000 — about £90,000, the equivalent price of a nice house in Harare. The lease on this camp lasts for three years and already an agency operating in America and West Germany is offering hunting holidays there costing US\$1,000 a day to hunt and kill trophy elephants.

This is not poaching, this is legal. Surely pressure must be put upon our Government to persuade the Zimbabwean authorities to help protect the African elephant before it becomes endangered, like the rhinoceros.
Yours faithfully,
E. CLINTON,
11 Fleur Gates,
Princes Way, Wimbledon, SW19,
June 2.

From Mrs Margaret C. Baker
Sir, My husband and I recently received our community charge registration form, most of it printed on a pastel blue-tinted background in only slightly darker blue type.
May I make a plea for clarity of printing for all important communications for the sake of the millions of elderly people and others with even slightly impaired eyesight, particularly when, as in this case, there is a penalty in law for failure to respond correctly?
Yours faithfully,
M. C. BAKER,
4 Scotlands Drive,
Farnham Common,
Buckinghamshire,
May 31.

From Mrs Janet Fielder
Sir, In his May 25 political sketch Matthew Parris is on the wrong track: the question is not whether but how to throw out the trash (those who keep their ears, after all, of no public concern).
A solution to satisfy most obsessive compulsives has been arrived at in some Canadian cities: "sort at source." This means that each house is provided with a recycling container for glass, tin and newspaper.
When full, the container is placed at the kerb on garbage collection day and its contents are

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

German role in concert of Europe

From Sir Reginald Hibbert
Sir, After several weeks during which the Federal German Republic has had a bad press in Britain, as a result of being branded as "wet" for not agreeing that the fate of Europe hinged on immediate agreement to modernise some six dozen Lance missiles, it was a pleasure to read Sir Clive Rose's letter (June 3) calling for particular sensitivity and responsiveness to West German concerns.

The destiny of the German nation is the most persistent and intractable problem in modern Europe. It was there before the problem of Soviet power arose: indeed it was the cause of that problem arising. It will be there when Soviet power fades.

For 40 years the unresolved political problem of the size, shape and boundaries of the state or states in which the German nation could find satisfactory expression has been overlaid by the security threat posed by the Soviet Union, the bloc of Soviet-controlled states, and the international Communist movement led from Moscow.

Now that the Soviet and Communist power are beginning to fade and fragment, it should not be surprising to find that there is a lively German problem pushing up its shoots through the more familiar Soviet one.

As Sir Clive points out, the Western Allies are committed to the reunification of Germany. It would be an injustice and asking for trouble to adopt any other attitude. The prudent course is to try to create a situation in Europe in which German reunification in some form or other could eventually take place without posing a threat to Germany's neighbors. This is perhaps the most important purpose of the European Community; but the Community will not be able to fulfil it if it concentrates only on being a market, whether of the present or the post-1992 variety.

This is why much closer political cooperation is needed in Europe, above all between the three biggest powers with influence in central Europe, i.e. France, the Federal Republic and Britain. It has been disappointing in recent weeks and months to see the British Government appearing to neglect these political priorities relating to Germany because of an obsession with a security issue which can, in fact, be, and thanks to the Americans and their special relationship with the Federal Republic, is being circumvented.

It will do no good to try to bully the Germans into being "dry". The sensible posture will be to welcome the process of change and try to control it by setting the parameters within which it should

Sovereignty issue

From Mr Derek Bloom
Sir, I have just re-read Mr Heath's televised speech to the nation of July 8, 1971, commending the terms negotiated for UK membership of the EC. It is entirely about economics, with not a single word about politics — let alone any suggestion that a decision to join would commit us to "ever closer political union".

That may have been his ultimate aim, but he omitted to point it out to us at the time. Certainly, the treaty referred to "ever closer union", but the word "political" is a later interpolation.
On October 13, 1971, at the Conservative Party conference, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, said:

I find the arguments on sovereignty rather unreal. What we propose to do is to agree, in certain carefully defined areas of economic activity, to come together with countries of

the Community for certain collective economic advantages, and within this carefully defined area we agreed to be guided by certain rules and regulations, which in some cases hold precedence over our laws and regulations.

That was what we were told: a very explicit statement of the meaning of membership as it came to be understood by all but a handful. We cannot have been morally committed to anything more.
Yours faithfully,
D. BLOOM,
47 Old Church Street,
Chelsea, SW3.

From Mr David Fraser
Sir, Why not introduce an EC honours list? Your readers might care to suggest classes of award, candidates, privileges and duties. At worst it would offer a little harmless amusement for the un-honoured majority.
Yours sincerely,
D. A. FRASER,
68 Lebanon Gardens, SW18.

TV and the deaf

From Mr A. E. Hope
Sir, I doubt if Channel 4 or anyone else could translate into sign language the schoolboy chorus of strange sounds so common to the Commons, whether supposedly sitting or jumping up and down (letters, May 25, 31).

What television ignores is the fact that eight million (and fast increasing) deaf and hard-of-hearing cannot cope with two or more sounds of different and often conflicting tone and weight going on at the same time.

Protecting Antarctica
From Mr W. Nigel Bonner
Sir, Sir Peter Scott (May 29) says he is called an unrealistic idealist. He will add to this reputation by applauding Australia's ill-considered decision (report, May 23) not to sign the Convention for the Regulation of Antarctic Minerals Resource Activities (Cramra).

Those of us with the conservation of the Antarctic environment at heart and an understanding of current political attitudes welcomed the rigorous environmental safeguards included in this Convention. It was a hard struggle to get some governments to accept these; it is naive and unrealistic to suppose that an environmentally stronger world park Convention could receive the necessary support from the Antarctic Treaty nations.

Without Cramra, and without a world park, some governments may regard themselves as unrestricted in the search for minerals. Sir Peter and Australia may find that by refusing to support

occur. President Bush seems to have opted for this way; but if it is to succeed it will require a much more concerted effort from the European powers to provide a framework within which the eastern European countries, including the German Democratic Republic, might safely emerge to real independence and choice.

From this point of view a modernisation of Britain's relationships with France, the Federal Republic, and the European Community would do more for the future of our countries than the modernisation of Lance.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Fronde, Penallt,
Machynlleth, Powys.

From Mr Gavin Konstam
Sir, There are two things our Soviet friends fear most. The lesser of the two, from their point of view, must be the reunification of a nationalist Germany, for a real external threat would, at worst, help to consolidate their own Union. Resurgent nationalism in the non-Russian republics, however, threatens the very existence of the USSR; and, of course, the least appearance of foreign intervention here could only exacerbate an already acute anxiety.

Too many Western commentators have hastened to congratulate President Bush for declaring that the United States favoured self-determination for both Germans. George Bush, they tell us, was wont to err on the side of caution, but this speech shows him fit to be the leader of the free world, not content to let Gorbachev make all the running etc. He could hardly have raised a more extensive issue, unless it were self-determination for Estonia!

Hostility to the West and autocracy at home are the expressions of an unspoken fear lest Russian domination over the other Soviet republics be challenged. Surely the encouraging manifestations of glasnost and perestroika have been the signs that some Russian leaders at least are willing to meet this challenge openly? The patient has seemed to be waking from his nightmare. With bated breath we await his first sentence. For we, too, have a nightmare, which is a return to the gulags.

I would ask whether there is really such a thing as the war of words, when words offer one participant practically the only room for manoeuvre available to him. Gorbachev cannot appear to be marking time; but the leader of the free world, democratically elected, with a four-year mandate before him, need hardly feel under the same obligation.
Yours faithfully,
GAVIN KONSTAM,
9 Chapel Street, Belmont,
Bolton, Lancashire.

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Theatre site safe for posterity?

From the Deputy Chairman of English Heritage
Sir, Could I make clear the position over the future of the Rose Theatre site in Southwark?

Last week the owners of the site, Imry Merchant Developers, agreed to meet the two main requirements of all who have been concerned with the remains since they were revealed two months ago: that the theatre site be not destroyed, including by piles for construction work, and that it be made available for public view.

These remains are extremely vestigial, barely more than a few inches high. None the less, they are worth preserving for their historical association with the Tudor theatre. Under the Imry deal a full two storeys of hall will be left above the remains while the entire site will, if adjacent owners cooperate, be available for excavation and presentation.

Such columns as are necessary for the block above the site will not intrude on the known theatre boundary. Should there be any associated remains where these piles are going, they can be researched prior to piling, as on any other rescue archaeology site. We then need to protect the area while building takes place, followed by a full excavation for display.

This is a thoroughly sensible deal. The Rose site has been saved for posterity. There is no need to raise funds other than to secure its best possible presentation. "Scheduling" the Rose at present would achieve nothing that negotiation has not achieved, except that the developer could sue for massive amounts of compensation — a complete waste of public money desperately needed for conservation and rescue archaeology all over Britain.

Britain is awash with sites urgently in need of excavation, including the neighbouring site of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Could we now turn our attention to them?

Yours faithfully,
SIDON ENKINS,
Deputy Chairman,
English Heritage,
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1,
June 6.

Barrow boys

From Mr Hugh Hanning
Sir, In the words of F. E. Smith, a much-talking judge is like an ill-tuned cymbal. This is the kindest verdict on the answer by Judge Ellison at Reading Crown Court ("It is clear that this man is going to die. Why doesn't he go and die in Barrow-in-Furness?" report, June 1, later editions).

A lawyer, of all people, should know Barrow's record in producing distinguished advocates, including Sir Norman (Lord) Birkett, who crowned a brilliant career at the Bar by becoming a judge, not at Reading, but at the trial of Nazi war criminals in Nuremberg.

Another son was George Romney, the artist. Another was Barnes Wallis, whose work with Bomber Command still lives on in the swing-wing multi-role aircraft.

Seven years ago, in the Falklands, a decisive role was played in HMS Invincible which was built, along with half our Polaris fleet and many nuclear-powered boats, in Barrow. This year our entire strategic nuclear deterrent has been entrusted to the Barrow shipyard. Barrow is also one of the few places in the north of England, including Liverpool and Manchester, which has held on to its industrial base throughout the 1980s.

An apology would be appropriate.
Yours etc.,
HUGH HANNING (born Hawcoat Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, 1925),
18 Montpelier Row,
Blackheath, SE3.

Saving graces

From Mr D. F. B. Le Breton
Sir, My uncle claimed a similar propensity by his aunt as that recounted by Mrs Fawcett (May 31), though what he termed a trunk (more capacious than a mere cardboard box) in the attic was more logically labelled "pieces of string — too short to be of any use". Two companion trunks were labelled to show their contents as pieces of string, "long" and "short" respectively.
Yours faithfully,
D. F. B. LE BRETON,
Brackenwood,
French Street,
Westerham, Kent,
June 2.

From Mrs Janet Fielder
Sir, Some years ago, on sorting the house of a highly-organised elderly uncle, we were delighted to find among a stack of neatly-labelled tobacco tins one labelled "nuts and bolts" and another "bolts and nuts". The first were matched and the second odd ones.
Yours faithfully,
J. FIELDER,
The Dell House,
16 Cobden Hill,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Irene Jones
Sir, Years ago, after the death of my husband's great-aunt, I found a tin labelled in her neat handwriting, "Old toffees, not to be eaten".
Yours faithfully,
IRENE JONES,
53 Southward Lane,
Newton, Mumbles,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.

One man, no vote

From Mr Stuart J. Cooke
Sir, With the failure of 12 national European election campaigns ringing in the air over the still-to-be-united EC, the advocates of this admirable ideal of a truly European Assembly have overlooked, once again, an ever-growing minority — namely, those European citizens who have actually taken up their claim to "free mobility of labour" and gone to live in another member state within the EC.

As a British subject, now resident for 11 years in West Germany, I am no longer on an electoral register in the UK. The logical alternative would be an entitlement to vote in Germany. However, German law provides only for German nationals to vote, also in "European" elections. Other EC countries have a similar ruling.

Concerned at the threat of my disenfranchisement, as a European citizen resident in Europe I contacted the British Consulate-General and the German electoral

authorities. They confirmed the anomaly by letter, and even apologized for not being able to help!

Does any of your readers possess the knowledge and influence to correct this Euro-paradox?
Yours faithfully,
STUART J. COOKE,
Bannstedter Strasse 5A,
2061 Alveste, West Germany,
May 24.

Getting rid of rubbish

From Mrs Isabella Stefanescu
Sir, In his May 25 political sketch Matthew Parris is on the wrong track: the question is not whether but how to throw out the trash (those who keep their ears, after all, of no public concern).

A solution to satisfy most obsessive compulsives has been arrived at in some Canadian cities: "sort at source." This means that each house is provided with a recycling container for glass, tin and newspaper.

When full, the container is placed at the kerb on garbage collection day and its contents are

picked up by a company to whom city hall has sold the recycling rights. Mrs Thatcher would approve.
Yours truly,
I. STEFANESCU,
5 Victoria Terrace,
Harrow-on-the-Hill,
Middlesex.

Seeing blue

From Mrs Margaret C. Baker
Sir, My husband and I recently received our community charge registration form, most of it printed on a pastel blue-tinted background in only slightly darker blue type.

May I make a plea for clarity of printing for all important communications for the sake of the millions of elderly people and others with even slightly impaired eyesight, particularly when, as in this case, there is a penalty in law for failure to respond correctly?
Yours faithfully,
M. C. BAKER,
4 Scotlands Drive,
Farnham Common,
Buckinghamshire,
May 31.

THE ARTS

Trial and error

TELEVISION

Chris Peachment

The more strenuous side of love was on display in *The People* versus Steinberg, recorded by *Inside Story: On Trial* (BBC1). On the stand was Heidi Nussbaum, an editor of children's books, with a body that had been through the wringer and a face worse than a heavyweight who had just gone the distance. Apparently, her lover Joel Steinberg, a New York lawyer, had once beaten her so badly that she required a splint.

We live in an age accustomed to a little radio-masochism, but this seemed extreme even by American standards. There were hints that she was a compliant, even willing, accomplice in all this, although the programme did not repeat the reports in the American Press at the time of "pain cells", and pornographic videos in which the two had been involved. If that had been all, we could have left ourselves worrying about consensual adults, medical problems of spouse-battering and the limits of privacy. But there was a child. Steinberg was on trial for murdering his adopted daughter, in a way which hardly bears repeating.

Of all the naïve comments which arrived from *vox pop*, the most horrible was the wonderment expressed that both these people were well-off and had desirable jobs. In a world where achievement is everything, it seems to be forgotten that evil has a human face and is not noticeably class-conscious. All of this might have been just another murder, in a town much accustomed to it. But this particular trial was the first to be televised. A young man from CBS in braces told us, without any apparent irony, that they replaced the afternoon soap with the proceedings. Ratings had soared, and the city was divided in its opinions. Since one of the founding axioms of America seems to be a divine right to celebrity, the greedy and the fame-hungry soon came vulturing around the cameras. Pundits were contradicting each other, authors were signed up for huge fees to write about it, even the witnesses on the stand were hounded by CBS for \$100,000 to repeat her story in the form of a mini-series.

Where *Inside Story* culpably failed was in examining the effect upon justice of this media attention. Nowhere was there an admission of the fundamental rule of observation: place a camera anywhere, and what is being filmed will automatically change. Justice may be truth in action. But truth is a hard concept, and not to be found in the noise of the circus.

TOMORROW

John Higgins on Plácido Domingo's London debut in *Il trovatore*. Plus William Leith on BBC2's *Europeans*

David Robinson finds Soviet teenagers more compelling than American ones, but goes the distance with Bruce Weber's boxing picture

A keener test of glasnost than international politics is the honest presentation of ordinary lives on the screen. For more than 50 years Soviet film-makers were able to show only an approved, idealized, sanitized view of society. The dogma of "socialist realism" defined the artists' task as showing life not as it is but as it ought to be, while the prudery that characterizes every oppressive political regime suppressed all representation of sexuality.

Little Vera, the work of first-time director Vasil Pichul, from a script by his wife Maria Khmelik, is a faultlessly frank and unflattering picture of provincial life in the Soviet Union. It came as such a shock, even in the time of perestroika, that for several months it was held back. Finally released late last year, it has become the Soviet's greatest box-office hit and a best-seller abroad — no less for its sheer movie quality than for its socio-political revelations.

The film opens with a broad landscape of Zhdanov, a Ukrainian industrial city beside a polluted sea, whose forest of chimneys leaks a permanent smog over the blank blocks of high-rise workers' dwellings. The film immediately returns to this shot, along with views of the no-man's-land of the outskirts, littered with dumps of slag and scrap metal.

In one of the high-rites overlooking the railway, Vera (Natalya Negoda) lives with her parents. She is working as a telephoneist and hoping for a university place. She dumps her stolid boyfriend, Andrei (Andrei Fomin), in favour of a student, Sergei (Sergei Sokolov). Dad drinks and has heart trouble; Mum is shrill from overwork and worry; both take it out on Vera for her smoking, her two-tone hair, her fast friends and her lack of dutiful respect for her elders.

Things come to a head when Vera announces untruthfully that she is pregnant, and on the strength of it arranges her marriage and moves her bright student boyfriend into the apartment. Pichul captures with awful accuracy the generation conflict — the youngsters' impatience with the parents' instinctive hypocrisy and

Ukrainian graffiti

CINEMA

Little Vera (15)
Screen on the Green, Metro, Minema

Broken Noses (15)
Screen on Baker Street

Waxwork (18)
Screen on the Green

Watchers (18)
Cannon Pantan Street

Sing (PG)
Cannons Oxford Street, Pantan Street, Chelsea

unchangeable habits; and the parents' resentful bewilderment at the children's attitudes.

The structure is casual and the family portrait is intimate, realistic, familiar — the rows, the frustrations, the exorcising meals together. The eroticism, too, is surprising — not only the scenes of nudity and sex, but equally the way Pichul catches the quieter nuances of love-making.

Overall it's a sense of an arid, depressed society: the crowded flat, the student lodgings and the desert of the streets. A dance in a park of culture is policed by militia with dogs. There are constant reminders of the ideals that were lost — a street named in honour of the Third International, a revolutionary's heroic statue, the interminable national anthem that ends the day's broadcasting as Vera battles with the washing up.

Not a little of the secret of the film's compulsion is the perfor-

Natalya Negoda as Vera and Andrei Fomin as the unexciting Andrei, in Vasil Pichul's debut, *Little Vera*

mance of an ensemble utterly credible in the innocent messiness of their lives. Vera is an all-the-world-over teenager, cheeky, tough and very vulnerable; Sergei is sympathetic in his insolence; the parents (Yuri Nazarov and Ludmila Zaisova) are as pitiable as they are intolerable. Only Vera's doctor brother (Alexander Negreva), a smug, Moscow-style yuppie, is unforgivable.

In 1984, the modish American photographer Bruce Weber was banned from photographing Olympic athletes, on the suspicion that he was making them look sexy. A lightweight champion called Andrew Minster said he did not mind at all; and out of this

grew *Broken Noses*, an irresistible documentary.

Andy himself is irresistible — a warm, bubbly guy who loves his Mum, takes his career and success seriously, and is passionately committed to his voluntary work: training deprived and difficult boys to be boxers. At first it looks like off-the-cuff *cinéma vérité*. But by bit it subtly yields more — an investigation of *machismo* and associated emotional repressions: revelations of the darker sides of Andy's own youth, which may explain his dedication to these funny, troubled youngsters.

The images alternate colour and grainy black and white. The black and white sometimes looks like

pastiche of ancient porn films; two notable colour scenes are when Andy studiously and touchingly recites from *Richard III* a rose garden; and when the camera actually captures a blush, after he is recognized by a female fan.

Waxwork and *Watchers* appear ill-fated: their censorship certificates prohibit them to the under-18s, whilst it is very unlikely they could ever appeal to any but the least demanding of early teenagers. *Waxwork* makes a half-hearted bid for flip comedy, but generally contents itself with a dogged recital of horror film clichés. The weary idea — a group of teenagers lured into a waxwork show where one by one they

become victims of Dracula, the Wolfman, the Mummy, the Marquis de Sade *et al* — progresses without development or suspense.

With glossy production and photography, it manages to be nasty without being thrilling. The writer-director Anthony Hickox (who also plays a sadistic English princeling) is the great-grandson of the Methodist flower miller and film magnate J. Arthur Rank. It is to be hoped that his future occult experiments leave the ancestral grave undisturbed. J. Arthur's austere shade, one guesses, would not like this kind of thing.

Watchers, directed in Canada by Jon Hess, is an old-time boy-and-his-dog romance, except that the dog is being pursued by killer mutants developed by the American government; while the boy turns into an expert guerrilla fighter, disconcertingly proficient with mortars, Molotov cocktails and firearms. The dog, a golden retriever, is cute and plays Scrabble; the boy (Corey Haim, an 18-year-old who looks 12), is cute but not quite so smart.

The old formula, "let's put-on-a-show-kids-and-save-the-school!", which seemed old-hat when Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland used to do it half a century ago, is belatedly resurrected in *Sing*. The old MGM writers would have gagged at a story so contrived as this, though. The school's toughest kid is teamed with the sweetest girl to put on the end-of-term show. The kid is led astray and deserts his mates; but when the lead dancer is KO'd at the premiere, guess who suddenly reappears to save the show in a brilliant all-dancing, all-singing finale?

The film strives hard to assert social and ethnic credentials. It is set in a contemporary declining Brooklyn where the schools are closing. The annual "sing" concert appears to be an authentic if waning local tradition. The Jewish community is painstakingly portrayed with every racial cliché.

But the story and dialogue defy any belief in authenticity. The first feature of its director Richard Baskin, it is written by Dean Pitchford, who is also responsible for the script of its obvious stable-mate, *Footloose*.

Precisely the wrong time

OPERA

Ariadne auf Naxos
New, Cardiff

good performances. Gary Bachand is a quite remarkable Bacchus, projecting strong, muscular phrases in a burlesque tone without any sense of strain. Edith Davies, as Ariadne, is no doubt discommoded by the pastel personality she is given by the production, but she intimates a more complex range of thought and feeling when she is not obliged to force her singing and become harsh. Constance Hauman is asked to play Zerbinetta as a bobbed-hair cutie (a breed unknown until a few years after 1916), and she does it with vivacity, even if the music takes her right to the edge of her skills.

All these three are American singers appearing here for the first

Nearly everyone these days updates Strauss's two operas about opera from the 18th century to the 20th, as if the music were not all the time telling one when it was written, and the rub of period against period were not a potential source of interest, deliciousness and charm. Giles Harvell's production for Welsh National Opera is unusual only in giving this piece a particular date, 1916, and drawing a whole new story out of that. Ariadne is not abandoned on Naxos but left behind in her boudoir by a Thesens gone to war. The dreaded letter comes, and her obsession with death gains a banal explanation. The arrival of Bacchus is the arrival of Thesens from beyond the grave, leading his beloved not to bliss but to a place with him on a monumental tomb. The whole thing becomes flat and sentimental if it is just the Composer's daydream of noble suffering womanhood in the Great War. There are, nevertheless, some



Constance Hauman: lively cutie

Destiny signposted

CONCERT

LSO/Solti
Barbican Hall

Sir Georg Solti has always treated Mahler with a sense of epic adventure, and he again entered into the youthful romantic spirit of the First Symphony in the first of two concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra. Barbirolli was the only other conductor I have seen bring the eight horn players to their feet to crown the triumphant finale.

For Solti the heart-rending personal experience of Mahler's youth that the symphony celebrates is an experience in the present, with wonder and feeling and a sharp ear for the graphic details. The *Songs of a Wayfarer*, from which much musical subject-matter is taken, yield symphonic signposts to destiny.

Paul Griffiths

Noël Goodwin

Simple truth

THEATRE

Look Back in Anger
Opera House, Belfast

evangelist. The British Sunday is still the same, the time when marital frictions come home to roost; and the task of getting through the newspapers blights every other activity.

Then comes the shock, as strong as ever, of seeing the ferociously aggressive Jimmy finding his wife and friend Cliff locked in a close embrace, and barely bothering to mention it. However they torment one another, the trio have their own code of loyalty and affection.

This is the element that emerges most clearly from Judi Dench's production.

Look Back in Anger is famous as a one-character play, the fiction of the others being to provoke his tirades. But the objective of this revival is not simply to allow Kenneth Branagh to give his Jimmy Porter — brilliant though it is. Instead, we get an ensemble study, illustrating the politics of the three-character relationship, showing Gerard Horan's Cliff as an essential shock-absorber between the couple, and Emma Thompson's Alison not as a defenceless drudge, but a wife who knows how to defend herself with tactical skills.

Jimmy, of course, has all the star speeches. But the production is startlingly successful in rescuing the low-key scenes between Alison and Siobhan Redmond's Helena, making you listen intently to their accounts of why they crossed class boundaries for the sake

of a bullying, grievance-collecting, passionate man. Branagh's Jimmy is a domestic performer. In his early onslaughts on the mutely ironing Alison, he is plainly putting on a show for Cliff, which crumbles into silence when he is left alone with her; and which develops through the play until it comes into the open in the vaudeville duet. Branagh deploys the whole Strindbergian range from weightily deliberate insult to racing invention, recklessly indifferent to the damage he is causing. In attack, as always, he never stops shouting.

But when he exposes his needs, language deserts him, and the words come out broken and inarticulate. I have not seen this side of the character before. Jimmy is always telling people how much he cares: in past performances this has sounded like self-serving cant. This time, it is the simple truth.

Irving Wardle

Débutant ball

FESTIVAL

Bolshoi Soloists Ensemble
Union Chapel

Alexander Lazarev, conductor of the Bolshoi Opera, has also taken on the dissemination of the burgeoning repertoire of the Soviet avant-garde, with a group from the ranks of his orchestra. The Ensemble of Soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre, in its first two concerts in Britain, communicated the new atmosphere in Soviet arts with spirit and humour.

Nicolai Korndorff's *Amoroso* (1986), an exotic, Scriabin-esque exercise, has the directly emotional appeal which distinguishes the new Soviet music in general. It permeates

Vladislav Shost's *Warum?* (1986), and even more so Vladimir Tarnopolsky's extraordinary *Jesu, deine tiefe Wunden* (1987), where two percussionists thrash out a flagrant rhythm of increasing power, while brass chorales recall Bach's Passions. Tarnopolsky relishes visual drama, too: the work ends with the conductor freezing in a crucifixion pose.

Tarnopolsky's *Brooklynsky Bridge* or *My Discovery of America*, receiving its world premiere, made a dramatic impact of a more outrageous kind, using both Soviet and American national anthems in an Ivesian whirlwind of idioms, jazz included. Nelli Lee, who also made a fine Valentin Silvestrov's static but beautiful 1983 setting of the *Ode to a Nightingale*, and Geoffrey Pogson sang with apposite razzmatazz. Distinctly more sombre was Tigran Mansuryan's Concerto No 3, for cello and 13 wind instruments (1982-3), played eloquently by Natalia Gutman with the bleakness of Shostakovich at his most introverted. Ashot Zograbyan's *Serenade*, also with a prominent and soulful cello part, seemed more artfully constructed, diverging from and converging upon a single pitch. Faraz Karayev's *A Crumb of Music for George Crumb*, which openly imitates the techniques of Crumb's *Ancient Voices of Children*, equally contained greater substance than its title suggested.

Schnittke, the father of the Soviet avant-garde, was represented by the complex, exhilarating *Music for Piano and Chamber Orchestra* (1964), given brilliantly by Vasily Lobanov; the finely turned *Four Aphorisms* (1988); and the outrageous parody of *Polyphonic Tango* (1979), pouring scorn on the establishment figures of Soviet music.

Clive Davis

Stephen Pettitt

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Reverberation, not revolution

JAZZ

Quartet West
Greenwich Borough Hall

David Murray Trio
Blackheath Concert Halls

Since the theme of this year's Greenwich Festival is "Reverberation and Change", it made some sense to build the jazz programme around Charlie Haden — bass player with the early Ornette Coleman quartets — and David Murray, one of the most brilliant of the New York left scene.

Not that either player is really mauling the barricades any more. Haden's Quartet West, for instance, is a distinctly conservative unit, and no less satisfying for that. Its first Verve album conveyed an assured sense of jazz history, the tracks ranging through the years from Duke Ellington to Charlie Parker and Pat Metheny. Adding a few of his own compositions, Haden created a subtle mixture of West Coast restraint and East Coast fire.

Those virtues were observed at the group's London debut,

unfortunately, thanks to Haden's apparent insistence on using virtually no amplification. It would have been a good idea in a club; in the stark acoustics of the Borough Hall the result was not so predictable. As Ernie Watt's tenor solos boomed off the municipal paintwork, Alan Broadbent's

piano was more or less lost in the ensemble passages. Lawrence Marable, who had the near-impossible task of replacing Billy Higgins on drums, often sounded as if he was playing in a different group altogether.

It was all the more frustrating because the quartet is potentially one of America's best working bands.

The balance was better on Metheny's "Hermitage". Haden also found space for another stab at Coleman's "Lonely Woman", adding a bass solo which gradually merged into the poignant country melody from "Tamey County".

Murray, after years of playing what John Lillweller once described as "Ayer ecstasies", has recently been developing a more accessible fusion of blues and atonality. His new album, *Ming's Samba*

(Columbia), shows him edging towards the mainstream with a quartet which includes the pianist John Hicks.

His rapturous received trio set at Blackheath was a more anarchic experience. Accompanied by Ray Drummond on bass and Rafi Peterson, jun, on drums, Murray kept up a grinning attack, relaxing only on the parody "Abel's Blessed-Old Blues".

Elsewhere his languorous bass clarinet solos created a sense of space which was intentionally absent in his tenor phrasing. In the Sixties it took a leap of faith to accept that Ayler was a great saxophonist; some sceptics may feel the same applies to Murray, though *Ming's Samba* shows that patience may be rewarded in the end.

Clive Davis

Phillips LONDON
COLONIAL & TOPOGRAPHICAL PAINTINGS



Anglo-Chinese School, circa 1860. "A view of Hong Kong's 'Happy Valley' racecourse", watercolour, 21cm x 27.5cm. Sold recently for £31,000.

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Leslie Walton
and Jane ShillingPreserving
ancient
culture

Peter Waymark

After the bar girls of the Philippines and horse racing in Siena, Under the Sea (BBC2, 9.30pm) comes closer to the traditional notion of anthropology, with a film by Jeremy Macro about the Mangbetu people of Zaïre. Reaching parts of Mangbetu culture which television cameras have not previously recorded, Macro reveals a way of life which has largely been lost to the world. The Mangbetu are a people of the Congo basin, a pale blue double-breasted suit worn by the recently retired chief, Dange Rali. The Mangbetu still consult the oracle, an old man with a bag of sticks and bones who summons up ancestral spirits with a magic whistle; they still indulge in Naondo, a form of nature worship which involves the taking of a hallucinogenic root, and they still carry out the ritual of smelting iron ore, though this is no longer accompanied by the killing and eating of a slave. Thanks to the white man, cannibalism is no longer practised. The Catholic mission established in the 1960s is convinced that the Mangbetu are possessed by sorcery and witchcraft. To Father Elio, the senior priest, consulting the oracle with his sticks and bones is a form of devil worship. The Mangbetu retort that the eating of the body and blood of Christ in the white man's Holy Communion service is cannibalism in another guise. The Mangbetu do not reject Christianity but insist on interpreting it in their own way, taking what suits them but leaving their old beliefs and values virtually intact.



Consulting the oracle: the Mangbetu people find it helpful (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Europeans (BBC2, 8.30pm) is back with its valuable look at the attitudes and concerns of our Continental neighbours, as represented in their television programmes. Tonight's items include a report from France on the rash of consumerism which has broken out under a socialist government; Italy's new-found patriotism (which is based partly on overtaking Britain in the economic league); and West Germany's growing disenchantment with playing hosts to American forces. Linking comments are provided by Simone Weil, former president of the European Parliament, and Renzo Arbore, Italy's leading chat show host. The programme also includes a nicely ironic quotation about Britain's 2,000-year involvement in Europe — from none other than Mrs Thatcher.

6.00

6.00 Breakfast News: News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins

6.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (1)

7.00 Breakfast News: Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 7.45 and 8.00. Regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.30 and 8.00. Regional news and weather

8.00 News and weather followed by

8.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (2)

9.30 It's Patently Obvious: Quiz game on inventions past and present, presented by Ian McNaughton

10.00 News and weather followed by

10.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (3)

11.00 News and weather followed by

11.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (4)

12.00 News and weather followed by

12.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (5)

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1.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (6)

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2.30 The First Steps in Life and Death (43)

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6.00 TV: News and The Morning Programme introduced by

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6.00 Open University: The Real World. 6.00

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SECRET IS SERVICE.

TEMPUS

Reed's shares bend in the wind

Reed International, for all its chopping and changing during a year when disposals totalled £830 million, now has to focus on turning out some more exciting growth in net earnings a share if it wants the market to stand up and clap.

The results for the 52 weeks ended March, showing trading profits from continuing businesses up by 43 per cent to £185.9 million and the dividend 20 per cent better at 12p a share, were superficially satisfactory.

But a breakdown which strips out acquisition benefits of £14 million and a £19 million positive from a pension fund holiday to show that the organic underlying trading growth was probably about 12 per cent, left the market disappointed.

The company, however, is not disappointed with its own performance, nor with the advance from 32.8p to 34.5p in net earnings, especially since it had suggested that because of all the corporate activity there might not be any net earnings growth at all. It will also benefit from the pension fund holiday for a while yet.

It dismissed yesterday's 17p fall in the share price to 38.7p, taking the view that it has been such a year of change that the market needs time to catch up with events. However, part of the share price fall was undoubtedly due to

the warning that there are signs of softening in certain markets.

Reed now has three definitive profit centres — publishing, books and consumer interests. This year should be one of digestion and consolidation.

After the latest series of deals, which include buying Travel Information Group from The News Corporation, Independent Television Publications (which includes TV Times) and Midem Organization, Reed will have net borrowings of £200 million — equivalent to a liveable gearing level of 12 per cent.

Some forecasts are hardly flattering at only £283 million pre-tax this year, though an encouraging interim report could see these upgraded. Meanwhile, on a prospective rating of 10.9, the shares are best bought on weakness.

Hazlewood

Foods

The Spanish, by all accounts, adore pickled beetroot. As surprised as anyone is Hazlewood Foods, which had been making it for decades before a recent fact-finding mission unearthed this information.

Hazlewood has managed 30 per cent annual earnings per share growth for the past 10 years because of such cross-



Looking for £60m pre-tax: Dennis Jones of Hazlewood

border predilections. It spent £80 million last financial year on small purchases on the Continent, adding another three since, for just £17 million.

Against this background, Hazlewood's tentative approaches to Northern Foods last year stand out as an aberration. The Northern deal, which would have advanced its corporate development programme by four years at a stroke, was scuppered by Hazlewood's refusal to countenance any earnings dilution when the Rowntree/Nestlé/

Suchard situation had boosted the going rate for food manufacturing businesses.

The ante has this week been raised further by BSN's swoop on RJR-Nabisco's European foods business, leaving Hazlewood little option but to pursue a piecemeal approach.

The Northern stake sale provided £1.4 million, set against rising interest costs from the acquisition programme to leave a total down from £2.8 million to £1.9 million, although payments this year will rise to £6.5 million. The group, where Mr Den-

nis Jones is finance director, took some one-off benefits from currency hedging and property disposals, but these and the Northern gain were largely wiped out by an estimated £3 million lost from the listeria scare. Pre-tax profits in the year to end-March, therefore, met expectations at £46.48 million, up 37 per cent.

Re-organization will cost £3 million to £4 million this year, but the group should make more than £60 million pre-tax. Earnings per share growth will inevitably slow to about 22 per cent, putting the shares on a hefty earnings multiple of almost 13. In the short term they look fully valued.

N Brown

Last November, N Brown Group did its best to signal that the four-week postal strike would produce a dismal second half for its predominant mail order businesses. Analysts were still too optimistic and more late gloom was needed to prepare for a 55 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million.

Of that, the second half to March 4 contributed just £1.4 million, against £8.6 million in 1987-88, including about £800,000 from financial services, almost all from the commercial estate agency.

Even allowing for the des-

perate circumstances, this was a very poor result and it would be a mistake for long-term fans to expect it simply to bounce back to its former 30 per cent profit growth curve.

Sales growth was always going to be less than budgeted. Warehouse troubles which had already afflicted the group in the first half have now been resolved. But a year's growth in sales and the customer base has been lost.

Brown has wisely chosen to rebuild margins by retrenching on overheads and by cutting out inactive catalogue customers, while maintaining its drive for new business.

The investment advice and management group has also slumped from £1.5 million profit to breakeven and, as others have found, recovery of investor confidence is a slow process. The mail order divisions will need to do a little better than in 1987-88 for pre-tax profit to recover fully to about £13.5 million in the current year.

On that basis, the shares (up 5p to 166p yesterday) would sell at 10.5 times earnings, which gives a fair balance of caution and long-term confidence. The 60 per cent stake of Sir David Alliance's family reduces the bid prop but may have helped maintain the dividend at 5p out of 7.1p of earnings, to give an unaccounted 4 per cent yield.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

AH Ball placing values pipes group at £10.8m

AH Ball Group, the pipeline laying contractor, came to the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday with a placing of 1.83 million shares at 165p each. Ball Group, a management buyout from John Brown in 1984, has steadily improved sales and profits for five years, and made £1.41 million in the year to March. Almost three-quarters of its sales come from the water industry in the South-east, the rest from gas pipe laying and cable ducts for British Telecom.

Of the shares being placed, 545,000 are being issued to raise £555,000 for the company after expenses. The rest are being sold by the directors and institutions which took part in the buyout. The placing values the company at £10.8 million, with a p/e ratio of 10. Dealings start on Thursday next week.

Courtaulds in Queens Moat in Dutch deal

Courtaulds, the textiles and chemicals group, has bought Intrax, a California supplier of films to the US aerospace and defence industry, for \$5.5 million (£3.5 million). Intrax will be integrated into Courtaulds' US technical films business, which it entered in 1987 through the acquisition of Martin Processing. The combined sales of these businesses are about \$100 million.

Betterware soars 44%

Betterware Consumer Products, the USM houseware group, announced a 44 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, from £1.25 million to a record £1.8 million, for continuing activities in the year to end-February. Group turnover climbed by 39 per cent, from £8.07 million to £11.23 million, with earnings per share rising by 44 per cent, from 8.94p to 12.88p. A final dividend of 3.75p (3p) is declared, making 5.5p (4.4p) for the year.

Mr Andrew Cohen, the managing director, said that reorganization had created a structured company with the ability for positive and solid development. Strong profits growth and receipts from the sale of the Wooltons curtains division had enabled the group to be cash-positive for most of the year, even after spending more than £4 million on acquisitions.

RCO ahead at £1.3m

RCO Holdings, the cleaning and related services company, has lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to end-March by 40.7 per cent, from £923,000 to £1.3 million. Group turnover increased 27.2 per cent from £10.83 million to £13.78 million, with earnings per share up 40.9 per cent from 5.57p to 7.85p. The interim dividend is 2.7p (2p), up 35 per cent.

B Elliott acquisition

B Elliott, the specialist engineer, has acquired Insley (London), a distributor of solid carbide cutting tools, from Meggitt for £5.25 million cash. Under the agreement, the business has been acquired on a debt-free basis with net assets of just over £1 million. Pre-tax profits at Insley came to £611,000 in the two months to end-December.

MTM sells £9.5m stake in Norsochem

MTM, the specialist chemicals group, has sold a 50 per cent shareholding in its Norsochem joint venture for £9.5 million, and paid a maximum of £12 million for Lancaster Synthesis, a manufacturer of organic chemicals for research establishments.

It bought Norsochem, which makes base chemicals for the food and pharmaceutical industries, for £2 million six years ago, and sold a half-stake to France's Orkem for £6 million. The French firm is buying the rest of the company.

MTM is paying £5 million initially for Lancaster, with the balance depending on future profits.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

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RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1989

Operating profit from publishing up 43% to £186m.

Pre-tax profits up 12% to £271m.

Earnings per share up 5% to 34.5p.

Dividend up 20% to 12p.

Reed profits up in year of change.

Sir Stanley Grinstead, Chairman of Reed International, said:

"This was both an eventful and successful year for Reed. We have sold our manufacturing businesses for over £830 million. The proceeds of these divestments have now been spent or committed for publishing acquisitions already announced. Our immediate priority is to integrate our new businesses successfully.

Concentration on publishing has improved substantially the quality and growth potential of

our earnings and we now have a business which is less cyclical and strongly cash generative. The operating profit from our publishing business showed, as expected, a healthy increase to £186 million.

Although there are signs of softening in certain markets, the broadly based nature of our businesses and the market leadership most of them enjoy, give confidence

in the underlying strengths and prospects of the Group. As a demonstration of this confidence the board has increased the full year dividend by 20%."



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Goodman pays £865m for Brierley offshoot

From Danielle Robinson, Sydney

Goodman Fielder Warte, the Australian food group, is buying Sir Ron Brierley's Australian offshoot, Industrial Equity Limited, for £865 million (£865 million), in a complex deal which GFW says strengthens the company for European acquisitions.

The deal also dilutes the Ranks Hovis McDougall stake in GFW from 15 to 11 per cent, weakening RHM's hold.

Mr Pat Goodman, the GFW chairman, said last night the takeover was part of GFW's ultimate plan to expand in Europe and Asia and hopefully to wrest control of a number of RHM assets.

GFW withdrew a £1.2 billion bid last year after a monopolies referral. This year, RHM launched a

counter-offensive on GFW, but last month GFW sold its near one-third stake in RHM to Sunningdale, a consortium of Sir James Goldsmith, Mr Jacob Rothschild and Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman. A Sunningdale bid for RHM is expected in the City.

As part of the GFW-Brierley deal, IEL will sell the Woolworths supermarket chain to Brierley Investments Limited, Sir Ron's New Zealand master company, making BIL one of Australia's biggest retailers and leaving IEL a virtual shell controlled by GFW.

Sir Ron will sell BIL's 52 per cent stake in IEL in return for a 9.6 per cent stake in GFW, 100 per cent control of IEL's greatest cash flow asset and

one of Australia's biggest supermarket chains, and an estimated net debt reduction of £860 million. Sir Ron also wins a seat on the GFW board.

Mr Goodman said the IEL takeover was "far cheaper" than a share issue in putting GFW in a strong enough financial position to make acquisitions.

"It will be interesting for us to know what will happen in the Ranks position and whether the new shareholders [Sunningdale] make a bid for it or not."

"My view is that the only reason they bought the parcel of shares was to make a bid, and if that's the case the reason for that will be to sell assets and we will be in the queue, providing the prices

are right," Mr Goodman added.

Analysts also suggested that one of the main motivations for GFW's bid for IEL was to give itself a breathing space by diluting RHM's 15 per cent holding in GFW, but Mr Goodman denied this.

Share dealings in GFW, IEL and BIL were suspended yesterday before the news.

GFW's offer is £24.40 cash plus one GFW share for every two IEL shares, representing a 26 per cent premium over the closing market price of IEL shares yesterday.

Sir Ron had given up all hope of organizing his much-vaunted merger of BIL and IEL, which he has been seeking since 1986 to simplify corporate structure.

Texaco group in N Sea gas find

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

A potentially commercial gas find has been made in the southern sector of the North Sea — the second such find to be announced on successive days — by a consortium headed by Texaco.

The find in a block 65 miles east of Easington on the Humber coast will require further drilling before it can be declared commercially viable.

However, while comparatively insignificant for Texaco and Chevron who have 35 per cent and 25 per cent respectively of the field, the gas find could be a large revenue earner for the smaller partners in the licence, such as Clyde which has 25 per cent and Atlantic Resources which has 15 per cent.

Under the joint operating agreement covering the field, Clyde is now expected to ask for a second exploration well to be drilled this year.

As gas fields are now attractive to potential power generating companies, the two larger partners may bow to pressure from their smaller colleagues and accelerate their appraisal of the discovery. Clyde, with a stake as large as Chevron's, can sell for a further well to be drilled this year.

The find could restore Atlantic Resources to favour on the Irish Sea Exchange. Yesterday it announced after-tax losses of almost £15 million because its accounts have now been restructured to follow the systems recommended by the Oil Industry Accounting Committee.

Atlantic has made no final dividend payment and announced a loss per share of 8.7p. Its shares in London yesterday opened at 14.5p, moved up to 15p, and then stabilized at 14.5p despite the losses announced and because of the new gas find.

Elsewhere in the North Sea, a 1.3 per cent stake in the Claymore field, now back in production after being closed down after the Piper Alpha disaster, has been sold to Pict Petroleum.

Pict has paid £4.6 million to buy the share from Gosh, another independent oil producer.

The deal is subject to approval from the Department of Energy, and the other members of the Claymore consortium have the right to match the Pict price if they want to. However, it is expected that the deal will go through by July 1.

COMMENT British Telecom shows some shrewd timing

British Telecom's share price may not have reacted to the \$6.5 billion McCaw bid to extend its leading position in the United States cellular phone business. But British Telecom's City followers were delighted.

First, the price amply justified the \$138 per pop valuation put on McCaw when British Telecom bought in last January.

Mr Iain Vallance, the chairman of British Telecom, took some stick at the time for buying a fifth of a company which will not see profits for some time, on terms which diluted British Telecom's earnings even though they are growing at a mere snail's pace.

But the inexorable rise of cellular company valuations since then makes Mr Vallance's timing look shrewd.

If the City really does applaud companies willing to take this long-term view, it should now give British Telecom credit where it is due.

The corporate dilemma for British Telecom is that it is already facing modest erosion of its all-important hard wire revenue base from the lively Mercury operation.

However, the real danger lies in the longer-term threat from Racal's Vodafone and its own Cellnet offshoot.

Further developments in technology will arrive with the switch to digital operations in the next few years. These could expand the capacity of the existing cellular system hugely in the next decade or two.

McCaw is paying the equivalent of \$275 per pop for the smaller Lin Broadcasting and it is by no means certain that a counter-offer will not appear at even higher values.

As with Vodafone and Cellnet, there will be a number of uncomfortable years of negative cash flow before the profits start to roll in.

When they do, they will have a significant impact on even a company as large as British Telecom.

For the time being, there will be little joy in holding British Telecom shares. The earnings profile is flat this year and rises only slowly next. But if Mr Vallance can find another McCaw or two, prospects begin to look rosy.

Chloride questions

Chloride's vital relationship with its bankers rather than its shareholders. That is not so surprising with the BL old boys club in control and a succession of men at the top for whom the battery-based group was rather small beer.

Shareholders have certainly been treated shabbily as the share price has collapsed yet again this year. They have been regaled with blunt announcements of agreed sales of the central motive power battery business as well as the remains of the unloved Exide European automotive battery division, swiftly

followed by a predicted sharp cut in the dividend.

Tomorrow, shareholders will have to be given a say at an extraordinary meeting called to approve sale of the motive power business (supplying the likes of fork-lift trucks). Their board has given them insufficient information about the detailed results for the year to end-March and the alternative balance sheets at that date to make a considered judgement.

The sale price looks fair but not irresistible. There is little reason to rely on the judgement of the board, whose explanations about strategy may be right but have been far too glib to be convincing.

The main reason to support the board's action would be necessary. That may well be an overwhelmingly powerful reason. The essential question to be asked — and plainly answered — is whether the banks have effectively insisted on the sale to reduce the debts built up under management which, though now gone, has a strong continuity with the present board.

If the proposals are understandably passed on that basis, Chloride will be left with a clutch of businesses with evident potential but no certain future performance. Institutions would have welcomed bidders with open arms, but none has appeared. They may be more interested in the stripped-down Chloride. The board has yet to make a strong case for continuing in charge.

Dollar holds the key

Mr Lawson said most of the right things in yesterday's debate in the Commons. He reaffirmed the importance of the exchange rate. He repeated that interest rates would go to whatever level was necessary to contain inflation. And he sat firmly upon any idea that the Government would be diverted into fancy new (or old) methods of monetary control.

Credit controls would not work, monetary base control had been fully investigated and was impracticable, and "overfunding" yielded little countervailing benefit to justify the distortions it caused. Monetary policy is at the centre of the battle and short-term interest rates are the weapon, said Mr Lawson.

None of this is remotely surprising to anyone who has followed the debate. But in a jittery market these things need to be said. Unfortunately it will take more than the Chancellor's adoption of the Prime Ministerial phrase "There is no alternative" to persuade markets that there is only one set of hands on the tiller.

In the short term much now depends on the trend in the dollar. The easing of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve seemed yesterday to be having the desired effect as the US currency weakened.

Electronics distributor ahead 13%

Electronics components, the distributor of electronic products where Sir Keith Bright, the former London Regional Transport chairman, became chief executive in March, boosted pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to £52.7 million in the year to end-March.

The total dividend lifts to 5.07p from 4.37p on a final payment of 3.6p. The group said its Electro Lighting business was hit by the fall in retail sales, resulting in static profits. A reorganization is under way to cut costs. However, operating profits for the core RS group of companies rose 19 per cent to £46.7 million.

Random £64m nets Century

Random House, the publishing group, is to take over Century Hutchinson for about £64 million, and says it has secured acceptances from more than 50 per cent of Century shareholders.

A statement forecast sales for the combined group of more than £60 million a year.

Neotronics fall

Neotronics Technology suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.16 million to £935,000 in the six months to March 31, despite a turnover up from £5.3 million to £5.9 million. Earnings per share fell from 2.8p to 2.3p but the interim dividend is kept at 0.6p.

Evered sale

Evered Holdings, the house building and construction materials group, is selling its polymer activities to Rubatex Corporation of the US for £22.25 million cash.

Rabone offer

Barday has received a £9.5 million offer for the business and certain assets of Rabone Chesterton, its British manufacturing division, from Cooper Industries.

Camford rises

Camford Engineering, the motor components manufacturer, raised interim pre-tax profits to March 31 36 per cent to £1.39 million. The dividend rises from 1p to 1.3p.

What friend Elvis?

Few can have been as disappointed in yesterday's Derby as Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Rascal. For the horse, which ran in his wife Janie's colours, had the best chance yet, among the dozen or so horses he and his four fellow consortium members have acquired and raced, of winning a classic race. Sir Ernest and his fellow speculators — Gerald Leigh, Tony Ward, Paul Locke and Dick Kirstein — are pledged to investing £250,000 each, for each of three years. The consortium, now in its second year — which means that each member has chipped in £500,000 to date — was pinning its hopes on Cacochies since, if he had won in style, he would have been worth an estimated £8 million — more than enough to recover costs. The consortium paid £255,000 (£163,000) for the three-year-old — originally named My Friend Elvis — at a sale in the US.

Card US

Does everybody now have annual awards? America has just seen the First Annual International Greeting Card Awards, at which various "Louies" were handed out, named after the Boston lithographer who is credited with having founded the industry back in 1873. Argus Communications of Texas won the competition for the funniest card, triumphing over entries from 200 firms. Its card features a note from a

Oriflame rises to £9.8m

By Wolfgang Mitchen

Oriflame International, the Swedish cosmetics group quoted on the London stock market, reported pre-tax profits of £9.8 million, excluding extraordinary items, on turnover of £66.3 million for the year to end-March.

This compares with pre-tax profits of £8.95 million last time, although 1987's figures, revealed over 15 months, exceeded a pre-tax profit of £9.4 million.

The comparison between the figures is complicated further by extraordinary items. Oriflame uses the international accounting standard, under which "unusual items" are accounted for above-the-line, thus influencing the stated pre-tax profits and earnings per share.

As a result, stated pre-tax profits have dropped from £26.1 million to £13.21 million, although the fall reflects an extraordinary gain of more than £17 million in the previous year, following the sale of the Goldsmiths retail jewellery chain, which came in the wake of the divestment of Oriflame's UK and Swedish jewellery retailing interests.

Last year, extraordinary profits were only £3.4 million. Shares in Oriflame, which is registered in Luxembourg,



Profit scent: Oriflame chairman Jonas Jochim yesterday

rose 2p to 210p following the announcement. During the year the company repurchased more than 1 million of its shares — nearly 2 per cent of its capital — at prices ranging from 170p to 195p. Earnings per share were

Rothschild payout of trust loanstock

By Our Financial Staff

J Rothschild Holdings, the rapidly-changing investment vehicle of Mr Jacob Rothschild, is to distribute to its shareholders its remaining holding of convertible loanstock in RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust for which it obtained a separate quotation last year.

The distribution represents 17p net of tax credit per share and helped the shares of J Rothschild Holdings rise by 4p to 211p.

J Rothschild Holdings will thereby have distributed all of the convertible stock in RIT Capital Partners as well as 60 per cent of the share capital.

The company's regular dividend for the year to the end of March is being raised by 19 per cent to 9.5p per share. Reported pre-tax profit rose

by 21 per cent to £134 million and unrealized dealing profits rose from £40 million to £59 million. This compares with a pre-tax profit of £44 million at the interim stage.

The agreement to sell half the group's stake in the former Anglo Leasing to interests of Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, as a vehicle to break up parts of British industry, sharply increased the market value of Anglo shares.

This helped to boost JRH's net asset value to £531 million or 186.5p per share, net of the RITCP stock to be distributed.

JRH calculates that there was a total return to shareholders of 38.6 per cent for the year, allowing for dividends and capital distributions.

M&S denies union claim about imports

Lord Rayner, chairman of Marks and Spencer, defended his company's record as a prime buyer of British goods after accusations about the amount of clothing it bought from abroad.

The Transport and General Workers' Union claimed M&S was importing substantial amounts of foreign clothing and making up goods from imported cloth. But Lord Rayner claimed 87 per cent of clothing was British-made.

M&S, which buys more than a quarter of British clothing output, gave so much buying support to some product areas that they would not exist without it, he claimed.

Lord Rayner was speaking as Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, presented an M&S "Better Made in Britain" trophy to Random Laboratories of Crumlin, Co Antrim.

Jumping for joy

Colourful New Zealander Connor Maloney, a convertible bond salesman with Merrill Lynch in London, now knows what it is like to win a big horse race.

His horse, Tumblin' Down — in which he has a near-half share — won the Great Northern, the New Zealand equivalent of the Grand National, at the weekend. Tumblin' Down is a gelding, which means Maloney won't be able to make any money from stud fees, but the £100,000 first prize money more than covered the cost of its purchase (for £2,000) and training. "The horse must be worth at least £150,000 now," said a delighted Maloney, aged 25, who shares it with a Sydney stockbroker and its trainer. "But I'll never sell it. We'll carry on racing it — it's running in America in October — and one day I'll buy a house with some fields so that I can watch it grazing peacefully." Admitting that only a year ago he tried, unsuccessfully, to give the horse back to its previous owner, Maloney now regrets that only one of his clients backed it, despite odds of 6-1. "A dealer from Rothschild's was the only one who followed my advice," he laments.

Crystal set

Roger de Haan's Saga Group, famed for its adventure holidays for the elderly, may have found yet another hole in the "Woopie" — well-off older people — market. Applications for franchises to run the new London community FM radio station have to be lodged with the Independent Broadcasting Authority this week, and among them is one from Crystal FM, a consortium including Saga, Richard Branson's Virgin Group and Brian Wolfson's Wembley, owner of the stadium. Crystal will cater for those aged over 55, and proposes a mixture of news, documentaries and music. However, the music will not be solely drawn from the 1950s and earlier. "The average age of the people at this week's Bob Dylan concert was well over 40," a spokesman for Crystal said.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

£21,000 key of the draw

From now on, Bob Barnes, the chairman at Cl-Alexanders, will be accompanied more than his fair share of courtesy in the Square Mile. For, if there is one thing the City appreciates more than anything else, it is a winner. And Barnes is certainly that. So much so that he had to go home early yesterday, after winning the £21,000 first prize in the annual Derby Day draw, operated by the International

daughter telling her parents not to bother sending her any more money for rent. "I met some nice boys in a fraternity that will let me move in for free," she says. It makes some of the saucy British seaside postcards seem subtle.



"Something to do with the Hong Kong bear market"

ADVERTISEMENT An Unusual Method Of Share Selection

You and I have never met, but perhaps we share a common problem.

My name is John Wheatley. I am a successful retired businessman. When I retired, I had no experience of the stockmarket, but having capital I thought that playing the market would give me an interest and hopefully a much better return on my money than fixed interest investments.

How it all started

Initially, I took my advice from newspapers, stockbrokers and investment advisers. But, despite a rising market, I found ironically that I was losing money overall on my investments. Indeed, I would have been better off leaving my money in a building society. I was disappointed, unhappy and disillusioned.

Nevertheless, many shares were going up — in a lot of cases, dramatically — and there was no doubt that there was very big money indeed to be made on the market.

Applying Business Principles

It quickly became clear to me that, to be successful, the stockmarket had to be tackled in the same way as one would approach any other business operation. One had to buy at the right price, deal in quality goods and have a ready market. Above all, the operation must be capable of rational systemisation — after all, any successful business operation is fundamentally simple.

Having read and studied everything I could lay my hands on about the stockmarket, I gradually formulated my business strategy. Priority was given to simplicity of operation and solid fundamental reasoning with the result that eventually I evolved a sound, business-like method of share selection.

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Battle looms as Paramount bids \$10.7bn cash for Time

Offer from the former Gulf & Western group threatens Time's merger with Warner Communications only two weeks before it is due to be completed

New York — Paramount Communications — formerly Gulf & Western — has offered \$10.7 billion (£6.8 billion) cash for Time.

Time's share price soared \$43 to \$163 yesterday on the news.

The offer came only two weeks before the proposed merger of Time and Warner Communications was to be completed. Time and Warner agreed in March to link up, creating the world's largest communications group.

Asked how he would break up the merger, Mr Martin Davis, chairman and chief executive of Paramount, said: "It'll be up to the shareholders, they can take all cash from us or no cash at all and end up with a piece of paper. Whatever the shareholders decide is the decision we'll abide by."

When asked how he saw the tie-up between Time and Paramount, he replied: "It's the same fit as with Warner. It'd be a premier communications company about the same size. If it happens, it'll be the biggest."

Mr Richard Munro, chair-

man of Time, was said to have expressed surprise at the offer, because he believed he had received assurances from Mr Davis that he would not bid.

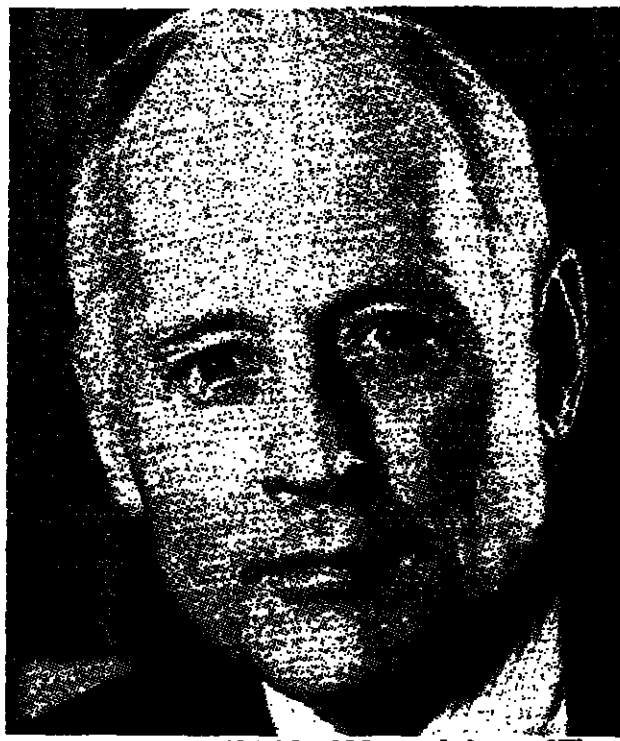
In a terse statement, Time said: "Mr Davis's proposal will be reviewed by Time's board, as required by law."

The statement added that for now the company was advising its shareholders not to do anything until a decision was reached by the board.

A spokeswoman for Warner said the company had no immediate comment. She also said that Mr Steven Ross, chairman of Warner, who was instrumental in the Time-Warner deal, would not be available for comment.

The blockbuster hostile bid had been the subject of widespread speculation among Wall Street traders.

Many believed that some-



'Surprised' at new bid: Richard Munro, chairman of Time

analyst at Drexel Burnham Lambert, said: "People saw this as a friendly deal which created a powerhouse media company that appeared to be blessed by Congress and most other regulatory authorities. In addition, there have been no hostile takeovers of well-run media companies."

Even Warner and Time had difficulty trying to figure out whether the Paramount chief would go on the attack.

Paramount's move could encourage other bidders to step forward. There has been speculation that after a hostile offer, a friendly bidder would rescue Time. In fact, that was the role many envisioned for Paramount — as white knight, not aggressor.

Among the more widely

speculated suitors, possibly working as a group, are Mr Jerry Perenchio, the West Coast film executive, Mr Al Taubman, the Detroit property developer, and Mr Charles Dolan, chairman of Cablevision, the cable company.

They are believed to have been trying to raise money for a bid, particularly with the help of the General Electric Capital Corp. Time and Warner are said to have warned GE, which owns RCA, the broadcasting company, that they would complain to the Federal Communications Commission about any GE involvement in a bid. They would argue that GE is already so involved in broadcasting that to lend money to anyone to bid for Time would violate federal law governing the broadcasting industry.

Although the Time-Warner deal involves an exchange of securities amounting to \$18 billion and is thus not exactly comparable to Paramount's \$10.7-billion cash offer, a rough comparison suggests Time investors would receive \$113 a share in the Time-Warner deal, or \$6.4 billion.

The dollar value is not higher because Time shareholders will receive only 38 per cent of the stock of the combined company, while Warner investors will receive the remaining 62 per cent.

New York Times

EC drops action on gas supply

The European Community has dropped a legal action against Europe's leading gas producers after substantial changes in the way they conduct their business, the EC announced yesterday.

The companies, including BOC Group with 60 per cent of the British market for industrial gases, were accused of breaching community law by imposing strict conditions on their customers.

Sales contracts stipulating exclusivity, prohibiting resale and insisting on minimum duration of contracts were against Common Market regulations on free competition.

But, the commission said the firms involved had already made changes which will have "immediate positive effects" for both customers and suppliers.

The companies named account for about 95 per cent of piped industrial gas in the community and 75 per cent of bulk supplies.

BOC was one of the companies accused of breaking Common Market law by including certain clauses in its sales contracts.

These specified exclusivity, duration, requirements over storage equipment, encouraging customers to use certain suppliers, prohibition on resale, and the "English clause", which obliged its customers to provide BOC with details of competitor companies which were offering better terms.

The changes to sales contracts include a ban on the prohibition on resale and an end to the use of the "English clause".

Compulsory initial deposits are now based on minimum duration for contracts have been cut in the case of liquid gas supplies.

Other companies involved in the EC action were L'Air Liquide, Air Union Carbide, Air Products Europe, Linde and Messer Griesheim.

Rates increases fail to stem new car sales

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Higher interest rates show no signs of hitting car sales, which have risen to a record in the first five months of the year.

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that new car registrations in May, at 199,258, were 7.5 per cent up on the same month last year.

But sales so far in the year have increased by 9.15 per cent to 1,021 million — the first time a million sales have been achieved before June.

The month-by-month increases will now be worrying Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was hoping to restrain consumer spending with his high interest rate policy.

But the SMMT statistics clearly indicate that strong company profits and private customers possibly switching from more expensive house purchases and into new cars is continuing to fuel the boom.

Even worse, imports are still being sucked in with 55.77 per cent of all the cars sold last month coming from abroad.

Most of the imports came from multi-nationals like Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot, supplying the rising demand for their plants in Belgium, Spain, Germany and France.

The imports figure for the five months rose from 54.64

per cent to 55.84 per cent. That puts the motor industry on course to widen last year's record £6 billion trade gap, wiping out export gains by companies like Rover.

The confidence of the industry was underlined by Vauxhall, which yesterday unveiled plans to invest £50 million modernizing its Luton, Bedfordshire, base. The company has already spent £122 million in the last three years on the manufacture of the new Cavalier.

Mr Paul Toschi, Vauxhall's managing director, said increasing Cavalier production from 35 to 40-an-hour will create 200 jobs with the prospect of a further 5,000 on retail development alongside the car factory and as part of the modernization scheme.

The Ford Fiesta rose to the number one place in the top ten sales rankings, overtaking two other models from the same company, the Escort and Sierra. May's top 10 was: 1, Ford Fiesta (16,163); 2, Ford Sierra (15,056); 3, Ford Escort (15,052); 4, Vauxhall Cavalier (9,743); 5, Vauxhall Astra (9,076); 6, Nissan Micra (6,272); 7, Vauxhall Nova (6,272); 8, Ford Orion (5,678); 9, Austin/MG Montego (5,167).

Poor US marks for Jaguar and Rover

From Mike Graham, New York

A survey to be published on car quality in America gives Jaguar and Rover bad marks from unhappy consumers with the British cars.

The Power Report, the bible of the US car industry which will be published this week by JD Power and Associates, the California marketing company, found European cars in general to have many more complaints made against them than either domestic models or cars from Japan.

Rover, which sells its top of the line Sterling car in America, has been plagued with problems since its launch in 1986.

Squeaks, rattles and electrical problems are the most often reported complaints by Americans who drive Jaguars and Sterlings. The survey

reveals that 58 per cent of European car owners have complained about the electrical systems, compared with just 14 per cent of Japanese car owners.

The survey included only the two British exports. Rolls-Royce was left out because of the low volume of its sales. Other European cars that were included were: BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Audi, Volkswagen, Saab, Volvo, Alfa Romeo, Peugeot and Yugo.

But there is some good news for the Europeans, especially the British. "The European manufacturers, which still have a long way to go in getting their product quality level on a par with the domestics and the Japanese, still scored the largest quality improvement with a 21 per cent drop in problems per 100 vehicles," it says.

Davis changes his mind...and does something

A year after becoming chairman and chief executive of Gulf & Western, Mr Martin Davis told a reporter: "I don't like unfriendly takeovers, and I won't participate in them."

Circumstances have clearly changed Mr Davis's opinion, as he proved with his hostile bid for Time. But change has been a policy Mr Davis, aged 61, has aggressively pursued since he succeeded Mr Charles Bluhdorn at Gulf in March 1983.

The change has principally come in

the area of consolidation as Mr Davis streamlined the group into a communications company, culminating in the official renaming on Monday as Paramount Communications.

It is a title that brings Mr Davis back to his roots. He joined Paramount Picture Corp in 1958 as a press agent, after beginning his career in Hollywood's business side 12 years earlier as an office boy for Samuel Goldwyn, the producer.

By 1965, when Gulf acquired the

studio, Mr Davis had risen to become assistant to the president. Three days after Mr Bluhdorn's funeral, Gulf promoted Mr Davis from executive vice president to chief executive.

Within a year he had cut the corporate staff to 500 from 600, liquidated the \$850 million share portfolio that Mr Bluhdorn loved to manage and cut the company's long-term debt by \$900 million.

The moves quickly put Mr Davis's personal stamp on Gulf and confirmed

what company insiders had long known — he believes in action. He had a message taped to his telephone that read: "Do something."

Mr Davis has taken a tough, disciplined approach to redirecting the company. His goal has been to achieve dominance in media and communications, which he perceives as the company's traditional strength.

This week he determined the direction by taking his own advice. He did something.

Balfour Beatty in Channel tunnel joint venture

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Balfour Beatty Power, part of the BICC group, has teamed up with France's Sptc Baignolles to secure a £200 million contract for designing and supplying a total power distribution sys-

tem for the Channel tunnel's transportation network.

Work on the contract starts immediately, and although some work could go to third parties, Balfour Beatty factories at Erith, Kent, and Liverpool should benefit.

The power distribution is

complex. There will be not only locomotive power for the tunnel shuttle trains but also for the mainline through-trains.

Power will also be provided for tunnel lighting, cooling and air conditioning.

Two power sub-stations,

one at each end of the tunnel, will be installed, together with high- and low-voltage cabling.

Balfour Beatty has been working with Transmanche Link, the main tunnel contractor, on the design and development of the tunnel transportation system.

Pearl confident of good relations with Australian Mutual

By Jeremy Andrews

Pearl Group said yesterday it was hoping to meet Australian Mutual Provident, its new 13 per cent shareholder, later this month. However, Mr Nigel Proddow, Pearl's chief general manager, said there had been no contact as yet.

AMP bought the bulk of its holding from the FAI Insurance group, but Pearl shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting did not trouble Mr Elmin Holland, the chairman, with questions.

Mr Proddow said after the meeting that a meeting was hoped for between Mr Holland and Lord Catto, the chairman of Australian Mutual's UK arm, when Lord Catto returned to Britain on June 21.

He reiterated his belief that the purchase was the extension of an existing portfolio investment — Australian Mutual had held a 4 per cent stake since 1987.

"I certainly don't think they will make a hostile bid, knowing the people involved," he said. "If they behave in the way they have over the past two years we will be happy to have them on the share register."

This week Pearl let a £71.5 million contract to Wimpey for the construction of a new



Holland: hoping for meeting

400,000 square foot head office in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, which will accommodate both the staff from its existing head office in Holborn, London, and from its regional offices, which will also be closed. Mr Proddow confirmed brokers' estimates that the Holborn site, which belongs to its life fund, could be worth £140 million when redeveloped.

However, the facade and marble staircase of the present head office are listed, and the company has been in discussions with English Heritage about it. A planning application would be submitted "soon," Mr Proddow said.

Scots accountants vote against merger

By Colin Narborough

Scotland's chartered accountants have voted by a majority of 55 per cent to stay independent, by rejecting a proposed merger with their sister association south of the border.

The vote was hailed by opponents of the link-up as signalling "an end to the defeatist attitudes and arguments" which had led to the proposals to merge.

But Mr Jack Worsley, president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, said the rejection of the first attempt to unify the profession in 20 years would harm the profession's credibility.

As expected, the ICAEW's members were overwhelmingly in favour of the merger — 33,495 votes for, with only 2,291 against — and Mr Worsley predicted that Scottish accountants would regret the way they had voted.

Straw polls conducted prior to the voting had indicated that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland had little chance of achieving the two-thirds majority required to allow the merger, despite the institute's leadership recommending the link-up.

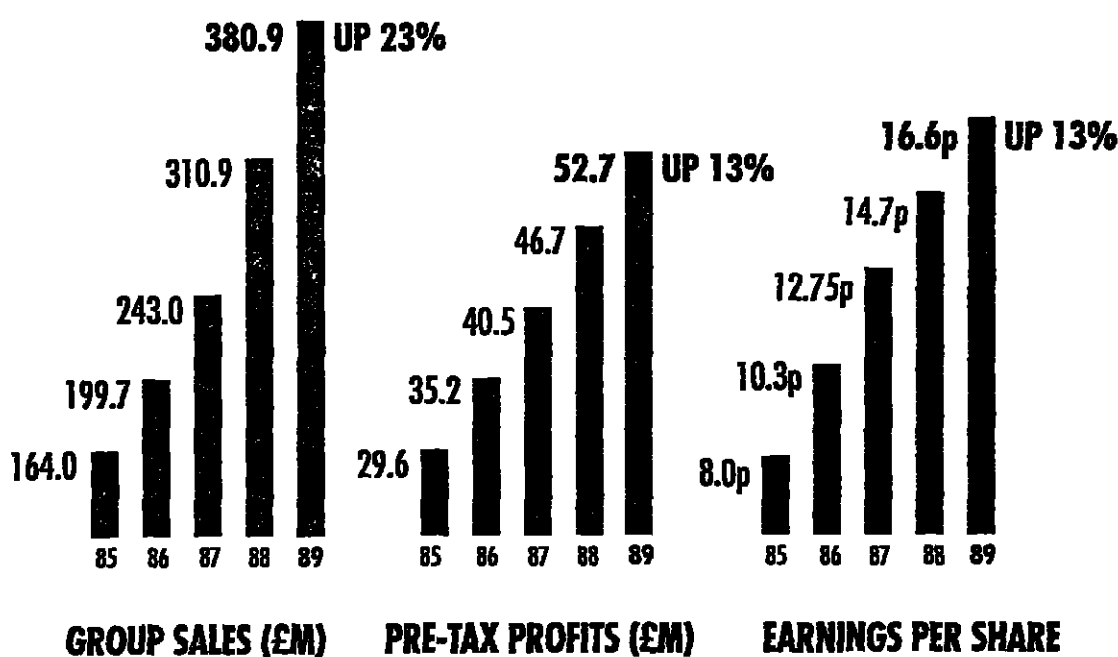
Opponents of the merger argued it would erode Scotland's higher training standards, and Scottish accountants' influence on the profession.

A statement from Mr Ewan Brown, Mr Tom Lee and Mr Ian Valentine, leading anti-merger lobbyists, said the vote was a "confident expression" that they can continue as an effective and viable institute collaborating closely with all the other accountancy bodies in the UK.

It noted that the ICAS was the fifth largest accountancy body in Europe, and saw the decision not to merge as giving the organization a chance to make a "radical" and "particularly Scottish" contribution to the profession. Reflecting regional sentiment, the lobbyists said: "We believe it is vital for Scotland's well-being that there are strong, indigenous, independent professions in Scotland which continue to attract many of the best school-leavers and offer them interesting and challenging careers within the context of the single European market and the challenge of the 1990s."

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Option	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
ABX Lym	420	25	44	91	11	14				
(1982)	480	7	22	32	30	38				
ABX Lym	480	2	10	18	10	18				
(1982)	500	65	115	5	12	22				
Bent	500	82	82	75	22	27				
(1982)	1000	470	5	54	52	47				
Bent	500	122	140	2	4	4				
(1912)	550	75	110	5	8	13				
Bent	550	35	75	13	25	28				
(1912)	600	9	30	45	45	50				
Bent	600	25	35	45	45	7				
(1982)	200	28	35	45	45	7				
Bent	200	14	25	35	11	14				
(1982)	300	14	25	35	11	14				
Bent	300	18	25	35	2	4				
(1982)	300	15	14	10	10	13				
Bent	300	15	14	10	10	13				
(1982)	180	9	17	24	12	17				
Bent	180	9	17	24	12	17				
(1982)	220	2	5	7	46	46				
Bent	220	2	5	7	46	46				
(1982)	200	210	210	4	2	2				
Bent	200	210	210	4	2	2				
(1982)	200	17	22	25	4	12				
Bent	200	17	22	25	4	12				
(1982)	30	81	124	18	17	20				
Bent	30	81	124	18	17	20				
(1982)	90	47	64	9	10	11				
Bent	90	47	64	9	10	11				
(1982)	200	41	105	19	21	22				
Bent	200	41	105	19	21	22				
(1982)	200	3	15	18	22	25				
Bent	200	3	15	18	22	25				
(1982)	200	170	154	1	15	15				
Bent	200	170	154	1	15	15				
(1982)	420	148	147	1	15	15				
Bent	420	148	147	1	15	15				
(1982)	200	124	148	3	8	8				
Bent	200	124	148	3	8	8				
(1982)	300	72	87	27	35	41				
Bent	300	72	87	27	35	41				
(1982)	200	27	43	30	15	22				
Bent	200	27	43	30	15	22				
(1982)	300	41	40	30	15	22				
Bent	300	41	40	30	15	22				
(1982)	300	25	33	41	9	14				
Bent	300	25	33	41	9	14				
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(1982)	100	25	33	41	9	14				
Bent	100	25	33	41	9	14				
(1982)	100	25	33	41	9	14				

100

TECHNOLOGY

Hi-tech trimming tack

Yachts are finally catching up with aircraft and cars in computer-aided design. Nick Nuttall talks to naval architect Philippe Briand, who is seeking new horizons for fast sailboats

A resurgence of yacht design technology is expected to lead to faster, lighter and more comfortable sailing boats with better stability, handling and performance. New computer programmes are becoming sophisticated enough to attract naval architects.

Though computers have assisted aerospace and car engineers

for many years, they have largely failed to get to grips with the needs of yacht designers, according to Philippe Briand, a leading naval architect based at La Rochelle, France.

This, he contends, is partly because potential profits for software firms in the yacht-building business have been too small to warrant research and development programmes.

However, with sailing experiencing a renaissance as a leisure activity in Europe and the Far East, software companies are being spurred on to tackle the programming difficulties of computer-aided yacht design.

"Aircraft and car design is relatively easy - you are dealing with movement in only one element," Briand said. "But in the case of sailing vessels, half the

structure is moving in water and half in air. You also have the problem of the interaction between the two media."

Next month Briand will put 10 years of experience in naval architecture and his faith in computer-aided design to the test at the Admiral's Cup race in Cowes when he unveils Corum 89. Each facet of the vessel, sponsored by Corum, a Swiss watch company, has been developed and tested on computers.

Possibly the most radical piece of equipment is the rigging supporting Corum's sail. At first, 17 different shapes were drafted and, to save time and development costs, they were tested on a computer game.

The game has not only allowed Corum's designer to compare performance of the different rigs but to alter wind speeds, wind direction and the race's duration.

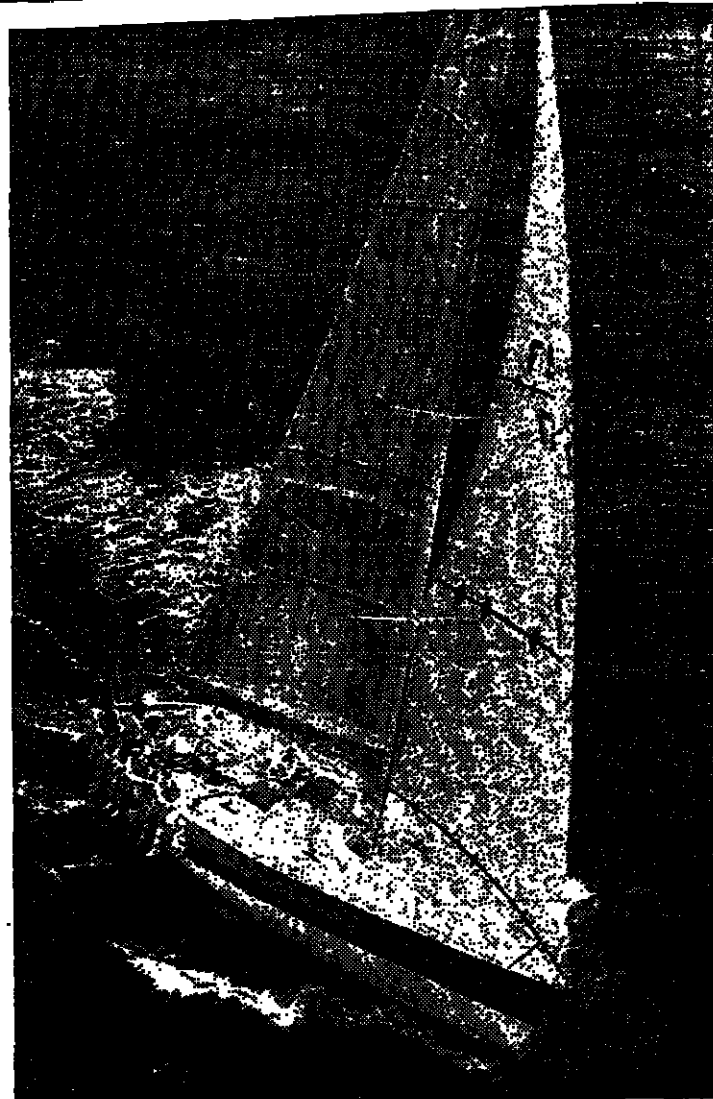
"Though one rig might appear superior in a short race, other legs of the Admiral's Cup, such as Fastnet, have very different conditions," Briand says. "The aim is to have a rig which does better on all the legs."

By curving the mast backwards, the rig's unusually long base but shorter height delivers high levels of drive, improving the yacht speed, Briand claims. When sailing downwind, Corum's mast is angled forward by beams stepped down the deck instead of the conventional method of sliding the mast into the keel.

Other improvements, most of which are aimed at lowering the boat's centre of gravity to improve stability and lightening it to enhance speed, include:

- A lead keel tipped with foam which helps reduce pitching.
- An extremely light carbon-fibre, epoxy-resin hull of a mere 990lb, on which computers, analysing stress forces, have helped pinpoint areas where thinner materials could be used without sacrificing strength.
- A simplified deck layout using the minimum of equipment.

"There is still hand drawing and clearly a racing yacht still has to be tested at sea before competition," said Briand. "But computers are making the design approach increasingly scientific; even the crew is integrated into the design."



Corum 89, the hi-tech yacht displaying her radically altered rigging



Philippe Briand: off to Cowes to test his faith and a new generation of computer-aided yachts and rigging

New personnel database has the best in the industry taped

A videotape and a computer database can be worth a thousand CVs. This is the claim of Nigel Schollick, who set up his head-hunting agency, European Personnel Consultants, in 1982.

Schollick, who spent 15 years as a sales manager and seven as a personnel manager in a computer company, sells franchises for his ideas and the computer programs to go with them.

He and six franchisees hunt for heads in the computer, communications, instrumentation and electronics industries, while another three handle construction, printing and retailing. A franchise sells for about £30,000.

They have all moved from senior positions in big companies such as British Telecom and ICL - two of them were managing directors in search of a more entrepreneurial life-style. Half of them have joined that fashionable breed of telecommuters, working from home.

They say they are better off now than they were in the corporate rat race, and

Computerized CVs and video tapes take away the hassle of selection

Schollick is looking for 10 more franchisees.

The program analyses multiple-choice answers from job applicants, and builds a picture of the candidate's marketable strengths, comparing these with the profile of someone who is recognizably successful in the job.

It also generates questions for an interview. If the candidate's answers appear inconsistent or open to two interpretations, for instance, if the original questions showed that the candidate was both ambitious and sociable, the system offers the question "How do you get people to help you?" to determine whether the candidate is unacceptably manipulative or a good team worker.

Schollick says he is continually refining the questions and the analytical method, as he builds up his database of candidates, currently more than 600.

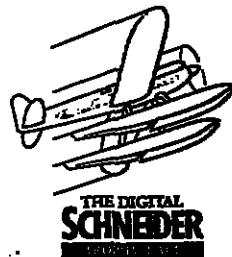
As well as the computer-based test, Schollick also uses conventional creativity and technical tests, and spends up to 2½ hours on an interview, which is videotaped. Schollick finds that candidates lose any camera-shyness after a few minutes.

The claim for video interviews is that they save time for prospective employers. Employers are also filmed, saving them the bother of having to repeat descriptions of their company to every candidate.

More importantly, the candidate and employer, having seen each other on film, get the impression that they know each other before the interviews start.

Without the usual preliminary fencing, Schollick says, they can start "talking turkey" right away.

Richard Sarson



Winners take off

This weekend the four weekly winners of our competition in association with Digital Equipment, which finished last week, will attend the Digital Schneider Trophy Race at the Isle of Wight. Each has won a holiday voucher for £1,000 and during the weekend will compete to decide on the overall winner, who will receive the top prize of a £2,000 holiday voucher.

THE SOLUTIONS to last week's contest were: A 8, B 5, C 5, D 30. The numerical solution required was 47.

The winner was Andrew Wheeler, a 27-year-old structural engineer from Chesham, Essex. He intends to use his prize for a trip to Disney-land.

His tie-breaking sentence describing the significance of Charles Lindbergh's solo crossing of the Atlantic was: "With great courage and endurance a monumental hurdle in aviation history was conquered."

Twinkle, twinkle little swarms of satellites

The bigger the better, a law of satellite design for more than three decades, is being challenged as advances in miniaturization allow engineers to build unmanned spacecraft that are smaller, lighter, cheaper and smarter than ever before.

A dozen pint-sized satellites are to be launched in the next few years, mainly to test the promise of the miniaturized approach.

If the work is judged successful, experts say, hundreds of small satellites could dot the heavens by the end of the 1990s, providing benefits to science, industry and the military.

Although they are usually of more limited use than their larger cousins, small satellites are seen as attractive because of their low cost, flexibility and ease of construction.

The new satellites typically weigh 500lb or less, measure two to five feet long, and cost from £50 million to £5 million.

Conventional satellites are bigger in every way. They can weigh up to 15 tons, cost hundreds of millions of pounds and be the size of a city bus, with solar panels and antennas extending 100ft or more.

Mini-satellites are being built to photograph the Earth, to relay data, to process

Miniaturization makes it easier to reach the stars

materials in space, to hunt for sources of radio interference, and to map the sun's magnetic field.

The switch to small satellites is being aided by advances in the miniaturization of parts, the availability of new low-cost rocket launchers, and basic changes in the philosophy that has guided satellite design since the dawn of the space age.

The military, for instance, is questioning its reliance on giant satellites, which are now being seen as tempting targets for anti-satellite weapons during war.

In a different philosophical shift, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has embraced small satellites partly out of frustration with billion-dollar behemoths that can take a decade or more to get into space.

Some NASA scientists now envisage a not-so-distant future in which experiments would be performed by swarms of tiny satellites, each the size of a coffee can, all working on the same experiment.

The advance of Western technology has allowed the move to smaller satellites, particularly in electronics, where computer chips are doing more in smaller areas. All the main operations on a satellite - guidance, communications and data storage - can now be conducted with electronic parts that are rapidly shrinking in size and drawing less electricity.

Arrays of solar-electric cells can now put out twice the power they originally did.

Another technical factor fuelling the move to small satellites is the advent of low-cost rocket launchers that are specifically designed to carry lightweight payloads.

"The beauty of the small satellite concept is that it opens doors," said Scott Webster, vice-president of Orbital Sciences. "A university or company can put a payload into orbit for \$10 million or less, including launch. Suddenly, space isn't an exclusive game any more."

William Broad

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NEXT COMPUTER



Nigel Schollick: sorting applicants with video and computer

Putting the heat on old oiled soil

Faced with an ailing economy starved by a rising oil price, the 1970s administration of President Jimmy Carter pledged its commitment to the flag of energy self-sufficiency (Nick Nuttall writes). The big oil companies, mindful of a \$50-a-barrel prediction, poked and prodded every geological nook and cranny searching for even a whiff of hydrocarbons.

It was heady stuff: heady enough for the Department of Energy to give a huge budget to a team of electronic engineers for an ambitious project - the extraction of oil from shale through a microwave heating process.

The Illinois Institute of Technology team in Chicago pressed ahead, proving the basic science. "But by the time we finished the field tests, the national goal of energy independence had been replaced by Star Wars," explains Jack Bridges, and the IIT team's senior scientific adviser.

Now the institute is focusing its microwave heating research along environmentally friendly lines with the aim of extracting not oil from shale but pollution from soil. "It seemed that if large

shale deposits could have their oil boiled off, then spillages could be dealt with in the same way," Bridges says.

With funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Air Force, the scientists have put their contentions to work and recently completed field tests at a fire training centre near Madison in Wisconsin. Here 40 years of use has laced the earth with toxic jet fuel and oil, grease, other lubricants and degreasing agents - in particular those containing trichloroethylene - which the military feared were contaminating the ground water.

The IIT technique consisted of sinking electrodes to a depth of about 10ft, 12ft apart over an area of soil weighing 30 tons. A layer of insulating material - gravel - covered the surface and this was covered with a flexible rubber silicone sheet held tightly at the edges.

Via the electrodes, a low frequency in the low short-wave band of electro-magnetic imports was passed through the bed, heating the soil to temperatures in excess of 200°C. A suction device removed the vapours into a heat exchanger/condenser before passing any remaining noxious fumes into an activated carbon filter.

The results were impressive: the team claimed a 99 per cent recovery of all volatile and semi-volatile contaminants. The Air Force is funding further studies and IIT are poised to licence a commercial operator offering microwave site remediation, as it is called, throughout the US.

"At the moment we are concentrating on refinery spills, farms and fire training pits. The technique can also be tailored to petrol stations which have had leaky fuel tanks where you do a quick heat up to decontaminate the area," said Bridges.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Division Head Computational Modelling

The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is a leading research and support establishment carrying out challenging projects in science and engineering. Information Department has a vacancy for a Grade 6 to lead the Computational Modelling Division. The Division consists of up to 30 staff involved in the computer modelling and simulation of real world objects of interest to engineers. The Department's main function is to support the development and application of advanced techniques in Information Technology for the engineering community supported by SERC. An Engineering Applications Support Environment (EASE) is the main focus for these activities.

The major thrust of the Division's activities are

- (1) **Mathematical Software:** the development and validation of new algorithms for computational modelling and their implementation in program codes. The major areas of current interest are Semiconductor Device Modelling, Electromagnetics, and Computational Fluid Mechanics.
- (2) **Parallel Processing:** The Division has a strong interest in developing appropriate algorithms for transporter systems and the new range of supercomputer workstations.
- (3) **Visualisation:** the visualisation of complex multi-dimensional data and the interpretation of images are major adjuncts to the activities above.

The Division Head will be responsible for directing and harmonising the work in all of these areas and for integrating them with other activities funded by the Council. He/she will be responsible for projects funded from a variety of sources.

Applicants should have experience in at least one of the areas described above. They will have an appreciation of the use of advanced computing techniques to solve engineering problems. They should have proven management skills in handling both staff and projects.

The Division uses SUN workstations as the main personal workstation. Access is available to Stellar, AMT DAP and ARDENT Titan supercomputer workstations and CRAY X-MP and IBM 3090 vector processing facilities. The post is offered either as a permanent employment or as a three-year secondment from his/her current employment.

Salary range £21,633 to £28,170 per annum. Some assistance with expenses incurred in house sale/purchase may be available in appropriate circumstances.

For an application form please contact Recruitment Office, Personnel and Training Division, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Science and Engineering Research Council, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0OX. Tel: (0235) 445-435, quoting reference VN 765.

Applications should be submitted before 30 June 1989

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

TECHNOLOGY

Fax: a new connection

There are about 400,000 fax machines in use in the UK, so few businesses can operate efficiently without one. For large companies, dedicating a telephone line to each fax machine is the simplest option, but smaller businesses must make the most of each phone line.

Having an extra phone line dedicated to fax use can be inconvenient for many reasons: it is costly, it ties up one line and sometimes is impractical if required for less than one year. There may also be difficulty in getting a second line installed quickly.

This problem may be eased soon when an Australian product, the Phaxswitch, is launched in the UK. The unit sits between phone and fax unit and has the "intelligence" to tell whether an incoming call is normal or a fax message. Even if the fax is sent manually — when the caller asks for a connection — the unit copies. It has an inbuilt voice chip that asks the caller whether a speech or fax connection is required: if the caller says "fax", the unit switches to the fax. If not, the caller is transferred to the phone or answer-phone. One of the domestic benefits of this system is that you can accept a fax in the middle of the night without being woken.

The product is having final approval tests in the UK and should be available throughout the country at £175. It has been developed by Banks Information Technology and won the 1988 Hong Kong new

A long-standing fax problem may soon be a thing of the past,

Ken Young writes

product award. Brian Rulton, product manager of the British distributors, Tracefax, hopes that between 30,000 and 40,000 units will be sold over the next 12 months.

Eventually such a unit may be integrated into fax machines. Meanwhile, users must make the most of models such as the Sharp FO 420, which has a socket allowing connection to a standard answer-phone on which they can record a message telling callers how to switch through to the fax machine. However, this assumes that the caller is using one of the new tone-dial (MF) phones.

With the proliferation of fax machines in larger companies, there is a tendency to connect them to the in-house telephone exchange via an internal phone. But Steve Kimber, product support manager of Pitney Bowes, warns: "Putting fax on a PABX reduces output and increases the risk of interference. On connection all faxes need to be properly tuned and their frequencies adjusted."

But the main problem of using a

fax on an extension line is the need for human involvement at each stage of an incoming fax: from sender to the operator and from operator to receiver. In-house digital telephone exchanges are helping companies circumvent this problem by ensuring that one exchange line is associated with one extension and one machine.

But a fully digital national telephone network will revolutionize the way we work. Most European countries are installing nationwide ISDN (Integrated Systems Digital Network) systems. BT is offering a limited service called IDA, which offers combined voice and fax over one line. But IDA is relatively costly and available only to large users.

It is still possible to make use of BT's expanding network of digital exchanges. Its underpromoted Star services are available wherever a connection to a digital exchange can be made. With two digital exchanges being installed each week, it is becoming increasingly likely that such a connection is possible.

Star services include:

- Call barring: the phone user can bar certain calls, which is particularly useful if the phone is shared;
- Three-way calling, which enables the caller to hold a conversation with two others simultaneously;
- Call diversion, which allows the caller to have calls diverted to any other phone or even a mobile phone;
- Call waiting, which indicates an incoming call if the phone is in use.



Freeing the telephone lines: Tracefax's Brian Rulton with the Phaxswitch

Committed to memory

PERSPECTIVE

Stuart Lock, right, looks at the gap between the capabilities of computers and storage systems



In most of today's computers, information is stored on high-speed spinning discs with heads that read the information — floating over them — not unlike a hi-fi disc player's arm. In fact, one of the first devices produced in 1961 by RCA was almost an exact duplication of a Fifties juke-box.

Products have developed significantly since then, with capacities exceeding one billion characters. But, unfortunately, the more data stored and the greater the reliability of the product, the greater the sparsity of the user. Thus, when a memory device goes wrong — and they do — the loss of memory can cause a major brain haemorrhage resulting in corporate paralysis.

Scaremongering? Yes. But if you imagine Concorde flying on auto-pilot around the world one inch above the surface, it is only a larger representation of what is happening in every computer disc drive storage system, from PC to mainframe, throughout the world.

Any computer development must have increased reliability and speed as its two key reasons *d'être*. Therefore, the removal of all mechanical functions from disc storage devices is the major factor in the development of the devices.

Unlike cars without wheels, the disc drive with no moving parts is a reality. The next step towards memory Utopia is the development of solid state discs — devices that provide the same storage and retrieval as rotating discs but with no moving parts.

Today, such devices are relatively expensive but, from a cost/performance point of view, they give the computer user information security far beyond any other devices previously available — the mean time between failure rate of such devices is not available because none has yet failed.

Among recent innovations is the Atari Folio pocket computer. Developed by a breakaway group from Psion, the Folio incorporates a solid-state memory no bigger than a credit card.

Although in their infancy, such devices will become the norm within the decade. This is not prophetic — in the past

20 years, one has only to look at what has happened in the other markets where products have been transformed by the introduction of solid state devices — watches, radios, calculators, to name a few.

Cost of storage is almost of no consequence in applications where unreliability means possible loss of lives. Old, moving-head disc systems are quickly being replaced by the civil aviation authorities in air traffic control systems. Atomic power stations, where most of the processes are computer controlled, are now solid state advocates. Among the first to standardize solid state have been the British defence forces, which are building them into mobile, computer-controlled radar and operational systems.

In the business world, where deals rely on instant data, and disc crashes can cause pile-ups far more costly than any motorway disasters, companies are swallowing the cost differential, taking a long-term view of the reliability factor and rapidly moving into the no-moving-part concept.

While satellite technology has been around for some time, the satellite data transmissions are so fast that receiving stations need mass storage to match them and, again, the speed of solid state meets these requirements.

But there is a need for extensive research into new means of information storage. Just around the corner are computer applications that will demand faster and faster means of data storage and retrieval. Already, companies such as Motorola and Toshiba are producing central processors which are so fast that they need brakes — even working with the latest memory available.

Such processors, now faster than the human brain, are having to be tuned down to meet the relatively slow speeds of solid-state memory. When memory development catches up, it will only be the lack of other peripherals that will prevent us from producing the first human look-alike.

● The author is managing director of Vermont Research UK, a company which specialises in solid state disc storage systems.

Danger up in smoke

Philip Morris, hoping to succeed where other tobacco companies have failed, is testing consumer reaction to a cigarette that is almost free of nicotine (*Martin Wolf writes*).

The product reportedly uses new technology to deliver a taste similar to regular cigarettes yet with only trace amounts of nicotine.

Such a development would overcome a problem that has plagued many new tobacco products, including the "smokeless" cigarette developed by R.J.R. Nabisco. Nicotine is considered a toxin, and reducing its content has been a focus of tobacco company marketing efforts for years. Last year the American Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, compared nicotine to heroin and cocaine when he identified it as the addictive ingredient in cigarettes.

A Philip Morris official declined to comment on reports of the cigarette, citing a company policy on products that have not yet been introduced. The reports of the test marketing first appeared in the US weekly *Advertising Age*.

Business discovers lure of the west

The south-east is becoming a victim of its own success, as companies and staff flee the region for the leanness and higher standard of living of the West Country. Salaries and house prices are starting to rival those in the east as information-technology firms take advantage of the cheaper accommodation along the M4 from Reading to Newport.

The high price of housing and lack of rented accommodation in the south-east has created big problems for companies, according to the Confederation of British Industry. They were cited by 96 per cent of respondents to a survey as reasons holding back company expansion and leading to difficulties in recruiting and retaining scientific, technical and managerial staff.

The rapid rise in house prices in the south-east over the past few years ensured staff remained in the region because they were worried that they would not be able to get back on the housing ladder if they left, according to Stephanie Twigg, manager of the IT division at the PA Consulting Group.

"The drop in house prices in London is creating a problem



for firms," she adds. "Now that prices have stalled, I suspect many staff are moving out of London."

Companies have already soaked up the land in towns such as Reading on the M4 so they can remain close to London but avoid the capital's high costs of accommodation and the difficulties of attracting staff.

Companies such as Digital Equipment and Hewlett Packard (HP) long ago set up headquarters in the Reading area. Now businesses are being forced to move west.

"The difference in salaries and housing between the

Thames Valley and Bristol is not that great," says Andrew Gowans, HP's personnel operations manager in Bristol. "Salaries here are rising very above the national average and the difference in the cost of housing is almost completely eroded."

"But there are other advantages in moving to this area. It has a tremendous road network and no traffic jams, is a beautiful place to live in. The only disadvantage is air travel."

"The Thames Valley has already attracted many IT companies. But there is not so much room left on the M4 corridor."

The situation is a far cry from the days when Bristol was primarily a manufacturing town — but times changed and more than 24,000 jobs were lost in this sector. Now, hi-tech companies and the computing departments of finance and retailing organizations are rushing to take advantage of Bristol's cheaper accommodation, proximity to London and quality of lifestyle.

A recent hi-tech recruitment fair was held in Bristol for companies from the region, including British Telecom, Hoskyns, GEC Plessey Telecommunications and Sun

Alliance. British Aerospace is running a big recruitment campaign for IT staff for its Airbus division. Salaries of up to £18,500 and relocation assistance are on offer.

The range of staff required by the companies caters for most IT skills, from junior programmers to database designers and administrators, project leaders, marketing and software engineers, PC and CAD/CAM specialists.

"Bristol is a difficult area to recruit staff as the competition is hot," says Mike Worral, director of systems administration at Gateways. "Salaries are moving towards the same level as those in London as finance companies and local companies compete for staff."

According to one salary-survey consultant: "There has been a rapid expansion of firms into Bristol in the past four to five years, leading to major labour shortages. You can't get computer staff to save your life."

Income Data Services compiled a report on the Bristol labour market and pointed out that the city has become part of the commuter belt for central London, as well as providing staff for the expansion of towns along the M4 such as Reading and Swindon.

Leslie Tilley

Time for transplants

Hundreds of patients waiting for organ transplants are likely to benefit from a breakthrough made by Du Pont, the chemicals company, which has just received the go-ahead for its invention from the US Food and Drug Administration.

Medical scientists have been experimenting for years with liquids capable of slowing down the degradation of organs taken from donors for transplants. Kidneys can now be stored for almost two days before being transplanted, enabling the operations to be carried out almost routinely. But the transplant of the liver and pancreas has been much more of a problem, as even the best preservation techniques failed after about eight hours or so.

Du Pont has now won approval from the FDA to market a solution which triples the length of time available to surgeons between donation of a liver or pancreas and transplantation. Called Belzer UW-CSS (ViaSpan in the US), the solution was



In the theatre: the development will preserve organs longer

developed by researchers at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr Folkert Belzer, one of the inventors of the compound, has been researching the area for 20 years, having been involved in work which extended the useful life of a kidney to 40 hours.

"I hadn't performed a kidney transplant at night since the late 1960s, but things changed in 1982 with the start of the pancreas transplant

programs," he says. "Transplantation was suddenly an emergency procedure again."

Belzer UW-CSS has made operations possible which would have been out of the question in the past.

Earlier this year, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* said it "revolutionized liver transplantation at almost every level".

Robert Matthews

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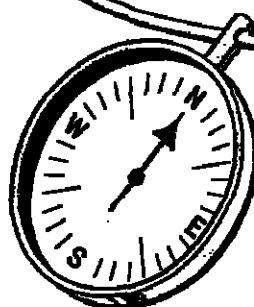
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on page 39

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THE TIMES

DIRECTIONS

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

8th, 9th & 10th JUNE 1989, NATIONAL HALL, OLYMPIA

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Directions, a three-day careers and higher education exhibition sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, opens today at the National Hall, Olympia, London. It is the first time that such a large and diverse group of employers and higher education establishments has been brought together. Employers from all sectors of industry can advise students on job prospects, and professional bodies can give information on the level of entry into their area. Further education colleges, polytechnics and universities show the range of courses on

offer, and international colleges from Europe and the United States are represented. The fair is aimed at school-leavers and graduates, but it would also benefit young people looking for new career opportunities.

A series of informative seminars will be held throughout the exhibition, with experts from industry, higher education and the professions providing impartial advice. There are still some places available for these seminars. A list of speakers and free tickets can be

obtained at the information desk near the exhibition entrance.

The fair is open from 10am to 6pm today and tomorrow and from 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Entrance is free. Each visitor will receive a Directions carrier bag and an 84-page catalogue giving details of exhibitors plus a floor plan. Colour coding - in the catalogue and on the fascia board of each stand - will enable visitors to find the most appropriate source of information (higher education establishments, sponsorship opportunities, and so on) easily.

Time to face the challenges

The challenge facing higher education institutions, writes Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, is to provide more flexible and adaptable graduates

Israeli might easily have been speaking today when he told the House of Commons in 1974: "Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends."

That sounds rather apocalyptic, but no one doubts that Britain needs to become a better educated country. We are taking major steps to improve education in the schools. Universities, polytechnics and colleges, too, have a key role to play in helping to achieve this overall goal.

In the context of this exhibition on higher education and careers, my central proposition is that demand for graduates will increase. This will continue the pattern of recent years in respect of both traditional fields and new areas, such as finance and retail, which now employ far more graduates than before.

Competition is becoming more intense and more international, even without the challenges which 1992 will bring. The latest forecasts predict major job growth at managerial and professional level.

In emphasizing the need for more highly qualified and educated people in the labour force, I need to make sure that I am not misunderstood to be saying that meeting the country's economic needs is higher education's only role. Higher education can never be simply instrumental, just an exalted form of training in which students are taught unquestioningly how to go in disinterested quest for knowledge. Its methods must continue to be those of

rational inquiry. But it is no betrayal of those fundamental principles to say that knowledge and rationality do not stand in splendid isolation.

How will the graduate labour market develop to meet the challenges the nation faces? Some employers will continue to need graduates with highly specific degrees. But what many seek are people with broad, lively and flexible minds, reinforced by rigorous academic training.

The qualities of imagination, analysis and communication should be the hallmarks of any good graduate, whatever his or her particular discipline.

'Recruitment must change: we cannot afford to under-use our intellectual resources'

It seems to me that flexibility and adaptability will become increasingly important. Those most in demand may well be people who can harness strengths in different fields: engineers who can design and market their product, or managers who are fluent in the languages of our trading partners.

And yet, while the messages from the market place are that we are going to need greater numbers of highly qualified people in order to meet, and beat, the competition, it seems inevitable that new

graduates will be in short supply as we move through the 1990s. This is because of the dramatic decline in the number of 18 and 19-year-olds who provide the majority of entrants to higher education.

Even with an expected increase in their participation, their numbers in higher education are set to fall slightly over a five-year period in the middle of the decade.

So there will be another challenge to higher education: that of exploiting other potential student markets more intensively. Institutions will need to attract more part-time and mature students, and to find ways of recruiting more students from groups and backgrounds who are under-represented.

To some extent this will recognize that we have left behind the notion that all necessary skills can be acquired in one initial burst of higher education.

Also, I believe more and more women will enter higher education during the 1990s; they may even become the majority. The number of students from the ethnic minorities will increase. So will those from lower socio-economic groups. I would like also to see an increasing number of the disabled being able to participate in higher education. We simply cannot, as a nation, afford to under-use our intellectual resources.

But attracting new kinds of student will bring its own challenges. A more diverse student body will bring with it equally diverse requirements and expectations. Mature students are not going to sacrifice earnings in the short term, or give up their leisure,



Kenneth Baker: demand for highly competitive graduates will increase. Attracting them is the task facing all higher education institutions

if the qualifications they gain at the end of their study have no currency. Nor will a simple wave of a magic wand change the minds of those qualified school leavers who have always preferred to go straight to work rather than take up a place in higher education.

Schools, parents and employers are important influences. Institutions, too, will need to look again at their recruitment policies, their academic provision, and the counselling and other services they provide to students. But the prize is one worth pursuing.

A broader recruitment base now will provide the foundation for a major expansion of the system when the numbers of young people begin to climb again. There will have been a sea change in the nature of our higher education provision.

The present great higher education funding debate is about how to effect such a sea change. In my view, it is through a fundamental change in the climate in which institutions see themselves operating: not as agents of the centre, but independent, dynamic and re-

sponsible for their own destinies.

One important element in this is bringing out more clearly the market force of student recruitment. That is the thinking behind our recent announcement that we intend to shift the balance of public funding of higher education from institutional grants to the fees paid on behalf of students.

This is a major change. It will give all institutions a greater incentive to expand their teaching activities and increase student numbers. It will also bring home the fact that with this indepen-

dence comes much greater reliance on their own efforts to do these things successfully.

Students can only benefit from the increased attention paid to them and from the increased perception that they are active partners in the education process.

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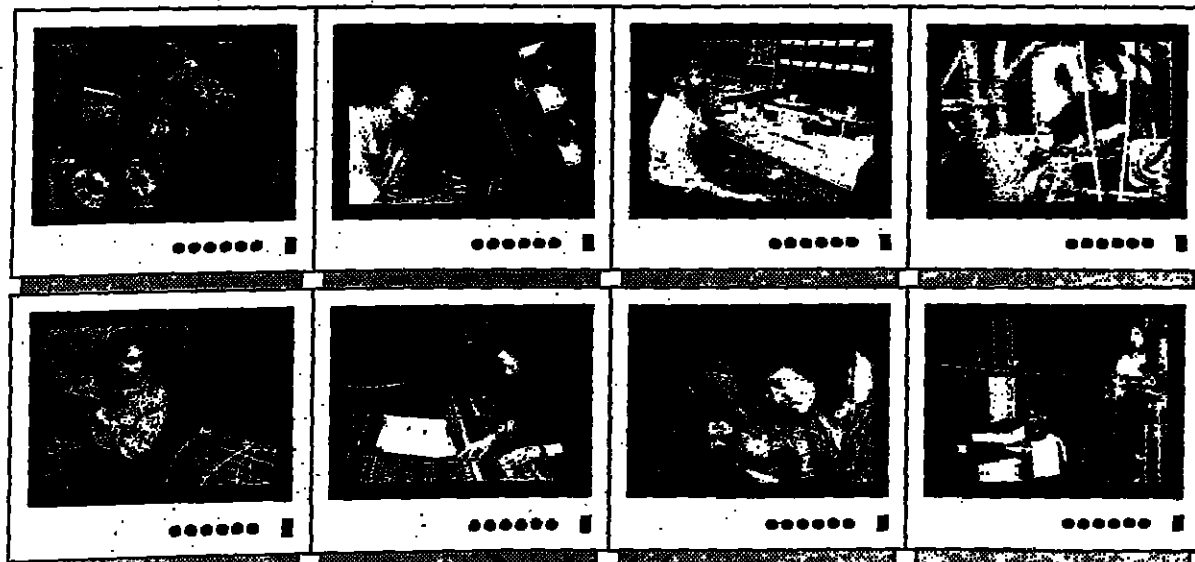
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Get it right first time

For a sixth-form girl, the choice seems simple: higher education or a salary - now. David Tytler looks at the pressures and options



Pegs and holes: for girls deciding on their careers, mistakes can be costly and hard to correct

I t used to be so easy to choose a job: girls became secretaries or hairdressers, boys went into banks or admin. And so boring. The choices now are varied and exciting, with new opportunities particularly for girls in careers that once would have not been easily open to them.

The message for the brightest, though, is to go on to university or higher education - it will pay in the long run. Glenda Blackburn, headmistress of the Invicta Girls' Grammar School, Maidstone, Kent, speaks for many heads when she says: "There are some very bright girls who do not want to continue their education. It is as if they have run out of the study ethic."

"Many parents, too, are happy for their daughters to go straight into work. It is a particular problem in the South-east, where they can get well-paid jobs in the City or the civil service. There are also good local jobs. Employers want them like gold."

Blackburn says she would always try to persuade bright girls to go on to university. She often arranges university visits for the reluctant students, hoping they will fall in love with campus life. But there are difficulties: "Bright school-leavers," she says, "can earn £5,000 to £6,000 a year."

The 260-strong sixth form at Invicta, which has 650 girls aged 13-18, is served by a careers team of three or four teachers led by the head of economics. Between 60 and 70 per cent go on to further and higher education, about 50 of them to university. Fifth-formers are given separate guidance, but only about 25 girls leave every year, mostly to attend college. Very few move straight into jobs.

Serious careers guidance begins at the end of the first year in the sixth form when a number of experts visit the school to explain the merits of their own particular careers.

Blackburn's school has a wide programme of work experience and work shadowing, but that is not without its downside. "Work experience can be a problem," she says. "They go and do not come back."

Of the girls who take degrees, many go on to work as solicitors or engineers, or in the City. Very few choose

teaching: the pay scale makes it difficult.

Many young women, however, do become "dedicated primary teachers" quite often as a result of the work experience organized by the school for the fifth form immediately after they have completed their GCSE examinations.

Blackburn clearly believes this can be very useful in helping young people to decide on a career. "They are getting very enterprising and finding themselves some wonderful placements. One girl went to a hat designer in London and came back with a beautiful hat she had made and designed in the two weeks she was there."

The heavy decisions have to be made once a sixth-former has decided on university. For some it is easy: three sciences, medicine, veterinary science. For others, time should be spent on choosing the right course.

Advice is available from the universities, school staff and careers advisers. All of this advice will be available under one roof at Directions.

Choosing the right course is probably more important than ever, with so many new and very specific courses being introduced. East Anglia, for example, offers chemistry and German, while Aston has engineering and Chinese.

Blackburn, like other heads, does her best for the engineer-

ing industry, which is continually appealing for more graduates, particularly girls. "I am afraid engineering always gets a groan from the girls," she says, "as they are constantly being told how important it is that Britain produces more engineers. They think it is a bit oversold."

Two or three leave her school for engineering courses each year, mostly in electronics. "We had one girl who went to work for Laing's as a civil engineer. When she

started the course at Thames Polytechnic, she was one of two. When she left she was the only one. You have got to be really keen."

"She is now 21 and a site engineer at Aldermaston. When she first went on to a site she had to have a pair of boots specially made. It was the first time they had been asked to provide site boots in size four."

Apart from engineering there is also considerable pressure from the armed services and the banks to recruit bright

sixth-formers. Blackburn says: "I try to present the girls with women who are actually doing these jobs, to widen their horizons. Lively girls are often attracted to retail management, but it is very difficult to get into Marks and Spencer, for example."

For sixth-formers or students deciding on the first day of the rest of their lives, the underlying message is stark and simple: consider all the options before choosing a job or a college. A mistake could be difficult to put right.

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THE TIMES

DIRECTIONS

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Making a smooth entry

The admissions process requires a military approach, Sam Kiley writes

Choosing whether to go into higher education, what to study and where, while simultaneously planning a career, is described by a lower sixth former as "like standing at an entry ramp to Spaghetti Junction at the rush hour. All you can see is a mess of inter-connecting roads, but you can't make out where the cars are travelling - and hundreds of people are shouting directions in your ear."

A-level students considering higher education must take a pragmatic look at themselves. According to Brian Heap and Stephen Lamley, authors of *Getting Into University*, several essential questions must be answered in preparing a strategy: Have you made your own decision, or have there been external pressures from family, friends and school? Are you sure that it is you who want to go? Have you consulted the relevant school staff to make a realistic assessment of your ability and potential?

Having resolved these issues, you will enter a system that is described in one guide as "a worse lottery than marriage". Five choices have to be made from among about 50 universities or university colleges as well as another five from 89 colleges and polytechnics.

All experts agree that to make sense of the bewildering application process, sixth formers need to plan their campaigns like a military operation - they have just over a year in which to execute their assault on higher education, beginning at the end of their first year of sixth-form studies.

July-August: During the summer term and the two months of the long vacation, start gathering information. All universities and colleges run open days during the summer term and will make arrangements for informal visits by small parties.

School careers officers are generally well stocked with college prospectuses, but candidates should send off for their own copies. In addition, obtain a copy of the "alternative prospectus" published by each student union. These student reflections will give details such as the state of college laundrettes and rents.



End of the road: Rebecca Ford, left, and Margaret Anne Lowe graduate from the Polytechnic of Central London

Candidates for Oxford and Cambridge have to move a little quicker because their UCCA (Universities Central Council on Admissions) forms have to be sent by October 15. Although Heap and Lamley recommend that students "take the advice about choice of college", this is the area in which ignorance and snobbery exert a strong influence.

September-October: By the start of the autumn term, sixth formers should have decided on their courses and institutions. UCCA and PCAS (Polytechnics and Colleges Central Admissions System) forms are filled in, and a member of staff completes the crucial confidential report - an analysis of the student's motivation, potential and personality. Although the colleges' admissions officers are not supposed to begin filling places before the closing date for submissions, in practice they do.

Pay close attention to what grades each university is likely to require, since that is an indication of what colleges think they are worth. Given that about half the people who apply for courses either do not get in or go to a college not of their choice, it would be shrewd to pump for a standby requiring A-level grades that are within range.

The UCCA/PCAS forms are sometimes the only contact the admissions tutor will have with a candidate before accepting or rejecting an application. Klaus Boehm and Jenny Lee-Spalding, authors of *The Student Book 89-90*, say: "Mess up any application form and you mess up your chances."

An admissions officer confirms it: "If they cannot be bothered to fill in the forms neatly, grammatically and without any spelling mistakes, why should the state spend about £5,000 a year educating them?"

November-December: Universities, colleges and polytechnics make their selections during these months. Admissions tutors are looking for intellectual ability, but they are also looking for people who can derive the greatest benefit from the years at college.

Most institutions prefer to make an offer based on the application forms and an interview. Heap and Lamley provide a useful set of questions a candidate could prepare to answer: Why have you chosen this subject? Why have you applied to this department? What are the reasons for the choice of universities on your UCCA/PCAS forms? What grades do you expect to get at A level? What do you know about this subject at university level?

All interviewers leave time for candidates to ask questions, and it is essential to have one or two. The final straight: Once an offer is made and the student has confirmed acceptance of a first and second choice, these selections are binding on both parties and it is merely up to the

sixth former to meet the A-level stipulations in the summer exams. However, just as some students come unstuck at A level, so institutions get their numbers wrong, and most offer spare places, which are advertised exclusively in *The Times* in late August.

Candidates who have failed to get into their first-choice or second-choice polytechnic or university may apply for a place advertised with a special voucher that will be sent to them automatically when the admissions computers notice that the A-levels required do not match the A-levels achieved. But as the number of school-leavers continues to fall, institutions can be expected to show greater flexibility in borderline cases.

At all times it is essential to be as little trouble as possible to admissions tutors: begging favours with long-distance telephone calls wins no points for tenacity and scores a high irritation count.

The Student Book 89-90, by Klaus Boehm and Jenny Lee-Spalding, Paperback, £8.99. *Getting Into University*, by Brian Heap and Stephen Lamley, Careers Consultants Ltd, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6UA. Other useful titles: *Polytechnic Courses Handbook*, Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, Kirkman House, 12-14 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6AX. *University Entrance*, The Official Guide, Association of Commonwealth Universities, John Roger House, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PF, £9.95.

Europe opens doors to the class of 1992

Europe may, as the posters proclaim, be open for business, but is it open for study? For millions of European teenagers, 1992 is also an unparalleled opportunity to broaden their horizons.

Already there are European agreements which enable students to study in each other's countries without paying fees. But British government limits on the number of "home" students it is prepared to subsidize often mean that British and EC students compete for scarce places while non-EC students, who escape quotas but pay full fees, have fewer access to universities.

Because of Britain's poor record on language education, the number of 18-year-olds capable of taking a degree course in a science subject at, say, a German university is small. But even for those with the language skills, the problem of paying their way in a foreign country remains a formidable obstacle.

Fortunately, there is an alternative which enables a student to enrol at a British institution and still study at a European university.

Erasmus (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) was launched by the Council of Europe two years ago to encourage "Europeanisation". It provides cash for exchanges of academics and students among all the higher education institutions in EC countries.

Britain is one of the leading users of the scheme, accounting for 22 per cent of exchanges. In the current academic year it will send 2,500 students to Europe to spend between three months and a year at big centres of learning. Only France does more.

John Reilly, director of the UK Erasmus Student Grants Council, based at the University of Kent at Canterbury, looks after 417 study programmes involving almost every higher education institution in the country.

Brighton Polytechnic, for example, offers a new course in European business with

technology jointly with the Politecnico di Torino. Students spend six months of each year in Italy.

Students who take Middlesex Polytechnic's new four-year business administration course, run jointly with universities in Germany, France and Spain, spend two years in Europe.

Kent University's new law course sends students to France, Germany and Spain. They emerge equipped to cope with the legal complexities of post-1992 Europe.

British students continue to receive their grants while they study abroad because they are still taking part in a course based in Britain. In fact, those on full grant can even get a special supplement for studying abroad.

"We have already had a very enthusiastic response but, frankly, I cannot understand why people are not breaking down our doors to get on to this," Reilly says. "It is the kind of chance you only get once and the benefits are enormous. The people who

have done this have picked themselves out for employers as a breed apart."

The fact that a limited budget meant the Erasmus grant often barely covered the air fare had done nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of students taking part.

Unfortunately, too few of Britain's brightest pupils are able to take part, because they do not have the language skills. Universities, in both Britain and Europe, are already running intensive "immersion" language courses.

Reilly has this advice for students: "If you are under 16, don't drop languages. Try to take two if you can. If you are doing A-levels, add an S-level in a European language."

"We need to get it across to schools that it does not matter what subject kids are doing, there is the potential for them to study in Europe. It is an opportunity which too few kids seem to know about."

● The UK Erasmus Student Grants Council is at the University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent. Tel: (0227) 744000.

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Talking point: "Don't drop languages, take two if you can"

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Matthew Hall

The private prejudice against polytechnics

Independent schools are overwhelmingly successful at getting their students into university, which is, after all, what most parents are paying £4,000-plus a year for. However, many such schools display an equally overwhelming disdain for other centres of higher education, notably polytechnics.

Tony Higgins, the chief executive of the Polytechnics Central Admissions Council, which processes the applications of tens of thousands of polytechnic entrants every year, tells the classic tale of "Sophie" who was forbidden by her well-known school even to apply for a polytechnic place.

She was determined to go to Trent Polytechnic, but because her school was not in favour she had to get a reference from someone outside the school. Now in her final year of a languages and business studies course at Trent, and having spent a year with Reuters in Frankfurt, she wants to join the police force and specialize in business frauds.

It is not perhaps the classic career plan of a middle-class girl from the Home Counties, but it is one she has carved for herself without help from her school, which refused to entertain the vulgar idea of a polytechnic.

While it would be unfair to claim that all independent schools take a snobbish view of higher education, it is worth noting how many gloat over their Oxbridge entrance success rates.

Head teachers of schools with a high examination success rate are justifiably proud of their products. What better way can there be to demonstrate their excellence?

Last year, 42.6 per cent of sixth-formers accepted by Cambridge were

Sam Kiley looks at the exclusive Oxbridge mentality found in independent schools



Tony Higgins: "They know parents won't wear their child going to a polytechnic"

from private schools. At Oxford the figure was 47 per cent. However, as one career adviser at a Sussex public school said, "talent will out", and Oxbridge types in private schools are, by and large, going to get in anyway.

But what of the less brilliant candidates, the teenager who is going to get two C grades and is hoping for a D in the least favourite A level subject? Where can he or she expect to go after leaving school?

It seems unlikely that such a student will be advised to aim a little lower and perhaps look closely at one or two of the vocational courses at a poly-

technic, such as the modern languages and business studies course at the Middlesex, which are becoming increasingly popular with employers.

But higher education is on the verge of a radical upheaval, if the Conservative Party gets just half its way, and private schools would be well advised to take note — if they have not done so already.

Since they were set up in 1963, polytechnics have been looked upon as the universities' poorer cousins; the consensus was that they were "gritty places in the valleys close to the dirty hands of industry", as Robert Jack-

son, the Minister for Higher Education, has observed.

However, since the Government plans to channel more funds through students rather than the quango funding bodies — the Universities Funding Council and the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council — students will "think more deeply about the costs and the benefits of education".

The plans to channel at least 30 per cent of college funding through students bearing fee cheques and separate the funding of teaching from research mean that colleges best able to attract students at a time when they are in short supply will come out on top.

Polytechnics look set to do well out of the increased competition. Put in the jargon of education, the Binary Divide would fade in all but name (Jackson has ruled out the idea that a polytechnic could, or should, change its name to university).

"I have discerned a prejudice against polytechnics among some of the older and more established private schools which is not matched by their less well-known competitors," Higgins says.

He says that quite where the cut-off comes is difficult to make out, but many of the minor public schools appear to have researched more deeply into what institutions have to offer on their courses rather than rely on hearsay and fashion, which so often dictates the choices of school-leavers.

"More often than not the schools are completely on top of the subject, but they know the parents won't wear their child going to a polytechnic rather than a university," he adds.

Exploring the confusing world of a sixth-former



Talk to teachers about university and college open days and they will say there are too many. But if you talk to employers about careers fairs, they will tell you there are not enough. They are struggling to recruit the 18-year-old school-leavers they need when the number of them is falling rapidly.

Universities and other colleges, of course, have always been interested in the bright people leaving schools, but employers, previously content to let people go to university for three or four years, are now trying to recruit directly.

Bristol University is aware of changing markets in higher education. The vice-chancellor, Sir John Kingman, asked the University Council last December, called for a free market in universities. He wanted Bristol and others to be able to decide the prices of their products — teaching and research. He wanted industry to pay for the research it needs and suggested student fees too should be related to demand and cost.

Other vice-chancellors declared their interest, but the Government seems uncharacteristically reluctant to unleash market forces.

But the free market in school-leavers is, to some extent, already with us. Employers are offering attractive salaries and good working conditions to sixth-formers who are qualified to go to

university. Universities and colleges have therefore got to explain clearly what they offer, how much it costs in time and money, and what result may be expected from entering the job market with a degree.

Who are the customers? For research the customer is industry and, to some extent, the Government itself. As far as teaching is concerned, there is a growing variety of customers. Universities have to address the needs of the traditional market: the sixth-formers, their parents and all those in the schools and careers services who provide advice. Universities and colleges will have to recruit greater numbers of mature and overseas students.

Universities must find, and be successful in, all their new markets, but that success does not mean the neglect of traditional customers. For the foreseeable future, the main customers for university teaching will continue to be the sixth-formers, armed with good A levels or their equivalent. But university admissions tutors have to realize that the sixth-former today is not the one produced by the old grammar school.

Who are they? People in universities, and indeed sometimes parents, have a rather idealized picture of the sixth-former that is not true. They are not necessarily ambitious, thirsting, eager for knowledge and enthusiastic for their studies. Despite a surface brashness, they are often quite unsure of themselves. Sixth-formers often have

confused pictures of the world beyond school; and it is confusing. They are faced with Single Honours, Joint Honours, combined and sandwich courses. They are aware some professions require specific qualifications at degree level; they are uncertain about relationships between other careers and courses. Few appreciate the number of jobs tied to any course. Many drift into course selection because they lack experience in decision-taking, and the confidence to ask questions.

Teachers and careers advisers do their best, but the results are uneven, a fact highlighted when academics meet their future charges, and their parents, at conventions and other events. We get few well-directed questions from well-informed inquirers.

That is why the Directions Fair is so important. Sixth-formers can meet representatives of the universities and colleges to hear about what they offer and can also talk to employers who are interested in them as school-leavers and as graduates. And they can get direct information from the mouths of all the horses on the course. The fair is very much the sixth-formers' environment. Through *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* sponsorship, the organizers have been able to create a mixture of fun and seriousness that leads to a great atmosphere of enthusiasm and interest.

Don Carleton

● The author is information officer at the University of Bristol.

Interviews start with the knock on the door. Lesson One is to make sure you knock on the right door. Getting all psyched up for the big entrance, then disappearing into a brown cupboard is no way to start a career in high finance. Once inside, the next thing to do is to close the door, but on no account should you turn your back while doing this. They will have seen your face and the split second your back is turned is enough for the chairman to raise one eyebrow

If the interview worries you, just look on the funny side

and for all the members of the interviewing panel to put a little cross next to your name. The next vital thing is not to stare. Ninety-nine per cent of people who fail interviews are those who head straight for that solitary chair and meekly await slaughter.

If you have watched any television at all, you will know that really top business people

take their jackets off and stand, hands clasped behind back, staring out of the window. So, hang your jacket on that chair and make for that window. If they do not offer you the job on the strength of that, they are probably not the sort of company you would want to work for anyway.

If you must sit down, try taking the chair and pulling it

right up to the desk where the chairman is sitting. He will be so affronted that he will instinctively move his own chair back. Then he will be the one sitting in the lonely chair in the middle of nowhere.

For women, the most important item of clothing is their earrings. Older men who interview young women are petrified of saying anything

sexist and always take refuge in the question: "What lovely earrings; where on earth did you get those from?" There are two options here. You could say: "They're from Tesco's. Now can we get back to the interview, you patronizing sexist?" Or you can make your earrings relevant to the job.

For example, if you were applying to be an aeronautical

engineer, you could have a couple of highly polished tap-rod rods hanging from your lobes. When the inevitable question comes, you can say that you picked them up while stripping down a Pratt & Whitney 1126 turbofan.

A quick word on application forms. Most sections can be adequately filled by gross exaggeration, but one section

needs special care — the section marked "Interests". Do not put walking or reading because everyone does that.

But never try to make it sound as though you lead an interesting life, by listing skiing, scalpa diving or paragliding. If your interviewers suspect you have a more interesting life than theirs, they are certainly not going to give you

an interesting job as well.

The only solution here is to put: "Interests: none." They will not believe you for a moment and will instantly assume you are some sort of enigma. This can spill over into the interview and you will find the less you say the more fascinating they will think you are. You will probably be hired just so that the panel has more time to find out what you really do in your spare time.

Guy Browning

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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Thursday June 8 1989

Britain must take on the world

The poor international perspective of many British companies has been well-documented. Studies of 200 top British companies by the Ambrosini Consulting Group indicate that the overwhelming majority of main board directors are still British. More than two-thirds do not speak a second language. Most worrying, nearly half have virtually no experience of working abroad. Further research suggests that an alarming number see the prospect of an internal European market as a threat rather than an opportunity.

This state of affairs is clearly unsustainable. Immediate steps to change it have often involved recruiting foreign directors on to the board and "buying in" expertise from firms of international strategic consultants.

These measures are justifiable only if they are seen as a catalyst for future change, rather than an end in itself. The process of building management teams capable of operating effectively in world markets has to start lower in the organization.

It encompasses a long-term

process of internal development, incorporating recruitment drives that are international in scope, general management development that includes regular international exposure, team building exercises that extend beyond national boundaries and the better use of employee communications to foster a truly international corporate culture.

The goal should be a team of senior managers that are adaptable, cosmopolitan and laterally-minded. "Hard" management skills associated with commercial success — financial planning, production management, logistics — vary little from one country to the next. What sets aside world-beating management teams are "people skills" and in particular values and beliefs that enable their members, collectively and individually, to accommodate and work well with contrasting philosophies, attitudes and cultures.

Providing managers with career experience and training which fosters an international outlook is a process which starts from the bottom. Many European and American companies build it into their initial recruitment and



Companies in this country need to adopt a more international perspective, writes Michel Syrett (left). They have much to gain

induction of new graduates. A good example is Olivetti's "No Frontiers" programme, which has the short-term aim of recruiting 1,000 systems support specialists by 1990 but the longer term goal of developing a pool of talented young managers with senior executive potential.

The programme was formulated as an international exercise specifically in response to the increasingly global nature of the

company's client base. Last year's intake included 13 different nationalities from a group of 58 recruits. A world-wide advertising campaign was run entirely in English. Recruiters in subsidiaries were all carefully trained to look for the same qualities and to give them the same emphasis. All successful candidates were then flown to the company's Italian headquarters to undergo an intensive training course, which not

only gave them job-related skills but allowed them to build strong personal networks with counterparts from different countries.

Creating this kind of interaction is also a key priority of US and European business schools. Top league centres such as Wharton (US), London, Cranfield (UK), INSEAD, IESE (Spain) and Milan are increasingly operating in their own international marketplace.

What marks them out from their competitors has little to do with their location. It is the extent to which they have created a cosmopolitan learning environment by encouraging faculty and student exchanges with counterparts abroad, developing joint management programmes and using international case-studies and approaches to tuition.

Formal training has to be built into a structured programme of internal development and career management, designed centrally by the international headquarters with the close involvement of local subsidiaries. Managers with high-flying potential need to be circulated between overseas subsidiaries and assigned projects with an international scope.

Secondments to companies in other countries also provide a broader exposure to different management styles, cultures and approaches.

London's International Stock Exchange, for example, currently has a senior management person on secondment to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, performing the important role of deputy chief executive. The arrangement not only enables the organizations to develop closer links. It also provides the seconded with valuable career experience at a time when London is becoming a world-wide financial centre.

These initiatives will prove worthwhile, and indeed counteractive, if they are not linked to an accurate assessment of the organization's future human resource needs. Senior management must be a central boardroom issue which takes into account the future direction of the enterprise. Research currently undertaken by Dr Lynda Gratton of the London Business School suggests that traditional succession planning is

not proving successful in many modern companies because it is too rigid and narrow to accommodate fast growth, moves into global markets and diversification into a number of different fields, all requiring contrasting and even conflicting styles of management.

That said, the secret does not rest with any exclusive set of training techniques. Approaches to management development adopted by successful multinationals — external training, internal development, integrated career management — are in many ways similar to those undertaken by domestic British companies.

What distinguishes the international from the domestic process is its scope, the environment in which the learning takes place and the breadth of personal networks which enable organizations from different countries, whether linked commercially or not, to develop mutually-beneficial exchanges of staff and expertise.

● Michel Syrett is director of the Price Waterhouse/Cranfield Project, an independent research centre investigating international strategic human resource management, based at Cranfield School of Management.

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Please write with full career details to: The Personnel Services Manager, Ref 117/R/T, British Gas plc (North Eastern), New York Road, Leeds LS2 7PE.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 16th June 1989.

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You will also have a good general feel for the world of commerce, and an understanding of senior management functions in large organisations.

You will be joining a growing, dedicated team operating in challenging growth sectors and, in return for your commitment, we will offer you a substantial financial incentive including bonuses linked to the performance of the company. To apply please send C.V. to: Kevin Brundrett, Director, The Stewart Partnership, quoting Ref: K/T/0070.

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If you have good advertising sales experience or the relevant communication skills, then please telephone Chris Humphreys or Carol White at Cornhill Publications Ltd. on 01-240 1515.

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Working in a team which is responsible for the management of internal and external courses, recruitment, training and placing of temporary/permanent staff, and the implementation, training and support of ICI's standard office systems. A high level of keyboarding skills gained in an office background, together with a working knowledge of the IBM PC or compatibles are essential. You need to have a genuine enthusiasm for all aspects of new technology, its development and associated training requirements. Experience in designing, co-ordinating, running and updating courses and their associated material together with the ability to evaluate new technology is necessary. You will also need a flexible approach, initiative and patience together with the ability to act with the minimum of supervision. Excellent package offered, to include profit share, company pension scheme, generous holidays, etc.

For further details, please ring Jacqueline Stratford on: 01-408 0424.



70-71 NEW BOND STREET W1Y 9DE 01-408 0424

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Please send CV to Ewan Glen, Canon (UK) Ltd, Solar House, 1-9 Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LJ.

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OXFORD

EXECUTIVE

Social Services Supplies Limited invite applications for the position of Chief Executive.

This vacancy arises with the impending retirement of the present office holder. Candidates will need to demonstrate a broad range of management skills including financial control and marketing ability.

The company employs some 50 people, has an annual turnover in the region of £2M and supplies printed matter, stationery and office equipment to both charitable and commercial organisations.

A remuneration package to include a basic salary circa £20,000, company car and contributory pension is envisaged.

Assistance with relocation will be considered. Applications with full Curriculum Vitae, together with name and address of two referees, who will not be contacted without authority, should be sent to:

The Chairman
Social Services Supplies Ltd
Stepfield
WITHAM
Essex CM8 3BY

Closing date for applications is 30th June 1989

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Further details and application forms are available from:
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The Studio, 65, Bishops, LINCOLN, LNL 3AL.
Tel: Lincoln (0522) 526595.

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North London

We are recruiting on behalf of an expanding independent healthcare organisation currently providing services to over 200,000 subscribers throughout the UK. With an income of £8 million and assets worth over £6 million, they have ambitious development plans in which the Chief Finance Officer will play a major role.

The appointee will control a small team and will work closely with the Chief Executive, reporting directly to the Executive Committee on all matters of financial interest. Responsibilities will include:

- Managing full range of computerised accounting services.
- Analysing capital expenditure proposals, commenting on business plans.
- Managing invested assets.

£30,000

- Company secretarial activities.

To qualify for this senior role, you should possess an accountancy qualification, have a full understanding of management and statutory accounts production and be a capable and democratic team leader with an eye for business opportunities. Due to the organisation's unique management structure, it is essential that individuals should be able to express information clearly and precisely before large numbers of people; an understanding of committee etiquette or previous experience in a 'networked' organisation would be ideal. Commitment to the provision of healthcare for 'working people' is essential.

Please contact Hilary Douglas, sending a full curriculum vitae and quoting reference M7749/T.

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70 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1EU

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We now wish to appoint someone to manage the Centre and to assist with the introduction and development of new services. Responsibilities will include strengthening links with customers, actively promoting the growth of Electronic Mails Services, resolving operational and technical problems, and ensuring that quality of service requirements are met.

The ability to manage combined with personal drive, enthusiasm and good interpersonal skills are essential qualifications for this rewarding appointment. A good working knowledge of modern communication methods and experience in the operation of personal computers is desirable. Applicants should also have flair and analytical ability.

Benefits include performance related bonus scheme, contributory pensions scheme, generous annual holidays and excellent career prospects in our rapidly developing business.

Please write with full CV to Mr E F Howley, Personnel and Industrial Relations Manager, Mount Pleasant Letters District Office, London EC1A 1BB.

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Our client, one of Britain's leading manufacturing PLC's, is currently seeking an Administrator to join their city based Corporate Head Office.

Your main duties will be to ensure that the Group HQ premises are properly maintained and administered and to organise systems support for PC based systems. Responsibilities are varied, from all office equipment maintenance and organisation of furniture removal to telecommunications and stationery supplies. You will be liaising at all levels with directors, managers, tenants, engineers, contract staff and suppliers. This is a genuinely demanding position which includes management of staff and basic budgeting of general expenditure.

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70-71 NEW BOND STREET W1Y 9DE 01-408 0424

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Please telephone Sabina Stewart on 01 588 3535.

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Mr S. Scott 01 993 3619
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Application forms, which must be returned by 29 June 1989, and further details may be obtained from:

Chris Bocutt,
Personnel Manager,
General Council of
British Shipping,
30/32 St. Mary Axe,
London EC3A 8ET.
Tel: 01-293 2922
ext. 211 (no agencies)

GENERAL COUNCIL OF
BRITISH
SHIPPING

The Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Development
NATIONAL APPEALS CO-ORDINATOR

A small but rapidly expanding national charity, the Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Development (B.I.R.D.) based in Chester, is seeking a national appeals co-ordinator to develop and sustain existing fund raising initiatives and to complete a current major building extension programme.

The centre has pioneered a unique British method of treatment for victims of brain injury, both children and adults, and there is much scope for initiative and job satisfaction for a suitably committed applicant who would be responsible directly to the Clinical Director.

Experience of proven ability in Fund raising/Marketing/Public Relations at a senior level would be of advantage. Ability to communicate both orally and in writing is essential, but the Centre also requires attributes such as creativity, drive, enthusiasm, assertiveness and commitment.

Starting salary is negotiable, but would probably be in the region of £12,000 per annum plus expenses with car provided. Interviews for selection will take place in Chester during June, and it is hoped to appoint the successful applicant from a final shortlist interview during July.

Please write in the first instance (including a full C.V.) to:

The Clinical Director
B.I.R.D. Centre
131 Main Road
Broughton, Chester CH4 0NR.

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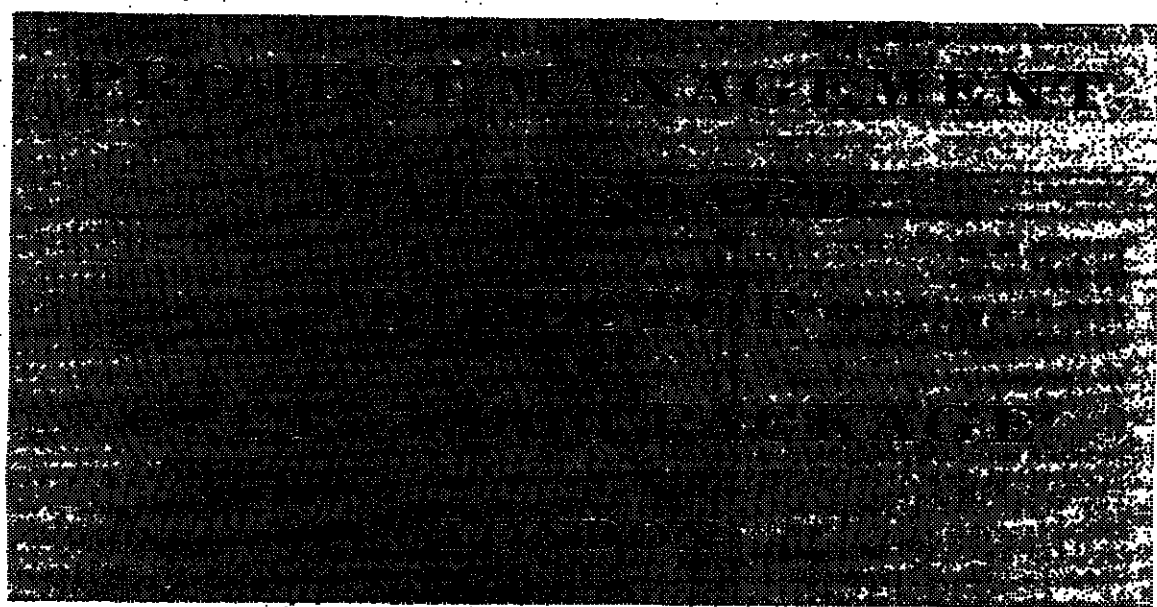
projects, and may already be running a project office.

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If you believe that you are one of the few who are likely to match our standards, please write with full career details to Lesley Fradley, Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited, Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT or call her on 01-822 8279. Please quote reference S2019.

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Our client's philosophy is to recognise and reward success. Current high earnings will not be a barrier to the appointment of an exceptional candidate.

Please reply to Stephen Bailey, advisor to the Chairman, with details of age, career and salary progression quoting reference S260/ST at Deloitte Haskins & Sells, 35 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3DX.

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Management Consultancy Division

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Please write, enclosing a current C.V., to:

Mr Tony Haslam,
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CYCLING

Reynolds leads as Spaniard kicks a Briton

By Peter Bryan

The Milk Race turned into a brawl yesterday on the North York Moors. The leading Spanish climber, Santiago Portillo, knocked Barrie Clarke to the ground, dismounted and then laid into the slightly built British Telecom clerk, hitting and kicking him in the stomach and head.

Clarke finished the 67-mile stage from York to Scarborough with a bloodied nose. The incident, which occurred after 31 miles, had been witnessed by two race referees and they took a statement from Clarke at the finish. Later, after a meeting of officials, Portillo was disqualified from the race. Officials said that whatever the Spaniard's reason for the attack "there was no justification for such action".

Clarke, who started the day trailing Portillo by five points in the mountain category of the race, said he was mystified by the Spaniard's action who, a few moments before, had shouted abuse at Clarke's Britannia team colleague, Mark Gornall.

The incident produced the second disqualification of the day. Before the start in York race officials announced that failure to attend a dope test the previous evening by the Colombian, Leonel Correa, meant disqualification. Correa, one of two riders selected at random by medical control at Tuesday's finish in Harrogate, claimed that because of language problems he was unaware that he was wanted and drove to York with his team and manager.

Joey McLoughlin abandoned the race with his knee injury, as he had done last year on the third day. He sees a specialist today hoping to be fit enough to

ride in the Tour de France starting on July 1. "It's not getting any better," he disclosed.

The day's off-the-bike events should not detract from an outstanding stage victory by Dave Spencer, of Britannia, who in his first Milk Race was one of four leaders for 54 miles when he decided on a lone attack from a steep descent, pushing a gear of 121 inches. He left the group two and a half miles from Scarborough and finished 25 seconds clear.

Later, after the 7.3-mile time trial on Oliver's Mount, won by Brian Walton, of Canada, Keith Reynolds (PMS-Falcons) regained the race leader's yellow jersey that he first took on stage two. He finished second in the demanding test against the clock and starts today with a lead of 11 seconds over Walton.

RESULTS: English stage, first section (York to Scarborough, 67 miles); 1, D Spencer (Britannia), 5hr 51min 54sec; 2, Dave Spencer (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 00sec; 3, M Gornall (Britannia), 5hr 52min 01sec; 4, L La Portelle (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 02sec; 5, P Longbottom (GB), 5hr 52min 03sec; 6, P Jones (Australia), 5hr 52min 04sec; 7, J Roddy (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 05sec; 8, R Jones (GB), 5hr 52min 06sec; 9, T Sedlak (GB), 5hr 52min 07sec; 10, N Barnes (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 08sec; 11, B Walton (Canada), 5hr 52min 09sec; 12, S. J. Curran (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 10sec; 13, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 11sec; 14, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 12sec; 15, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 13sec; 16, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 14sec; 17, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 15sec; 18, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 16sec; 19, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 17sec; 20, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 18sec; 21, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 52min 19sec; 22, D. D. R. 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(PMS-Falcons), 5hr 56min 57sec; 300, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 56min 58sec; 301, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 56min 59sec; 302, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 00sec; 303, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 01sec; 304, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 02sec; 305, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 03sec; 306, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 04sec; 307, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 05sec; 308, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 06sec; 309, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 07sec; 310, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 08sec; 311, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 09sec; 312, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 10sec; 313, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 11sec; 314, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 12sec; 315, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 13sec; 316, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 14sec; 317, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 15sec; 318, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 16sec; 319, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 17sec; 320, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 18sec; 321, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 19sec; 322, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 20sec; 323, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 21sec; 324, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 22sec; 325, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 23sec; 326, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 24sec; 327, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 25sec; 328, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 26sec; 329, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 27sec; 330, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 28sec; 331, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 29sec; 332, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 30sec; 333, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 31sec; 334, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 32sec; 335, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 33sec; 336, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 34sec; 337, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 35sec; 338, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 36sec; 339, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 37sec; 340, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 38sec; 341, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 39sec; 342, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 40sec; 343, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 41sec; 344, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 42sec; 345, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 43sec; 346, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 44sec; 347, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 45sec; 348, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 46sec; 349, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 47sec; 350, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 48sec; 351, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 49sec; 352, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 50sec; 353, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 51sec; 354, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 52sec; 355, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 53sec; 356, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 54sec; 357, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 55sec; 358, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 56sec; 359, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 57sec; 360, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 58sec; 361, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 57min 59sec; 362, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 00sec; 363, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 01sec; 364, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 02sec; 365, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 03sec; 366, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 04sec; 367, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 05sec; 368, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 06sec; 369, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 07sec; 370, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 08sec; 371, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 09sec; 372, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 10sec; 373, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 11sec; 374, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 12sec; 375, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 13sec; 376, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 14sec; 377, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 15sec; 378, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 16sec; 379, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 17sec; 380, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 18sec; 381, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 19sec; 382, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 20sec; 383, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5hr 58min 21sec; 384, D. D. R. (PMS-Falcons), 5

